



County Borough of Reading

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1964

ALEXANDER GATHERER, M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H.



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HEALTH COMMITTEE

December 31st, 1964

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor Mrs. ALEXANDRA STURROCK)

Aldermen:

ALICE JEANETTE BURROWS EDITH MORRIS GEORGE GRIMSHAW HAMMOND
WILLIAM JOHN ALLUM (Chairman)

Councillors:

PERCY BELCHER	IVY SILVIA BLAGROVE
WILLIAM EWART BOWYER	JOSHUA HAZLETON
GEORGE CHARLES BROADHURST	FREDERICK LAWRENCE ROBERTS
IRIS BOZIER BUTCHER	ERNEST ALBERT SHADE
FRED DAVISON	HENRY GEORGE WHEELER
DAVID HERBERT JOHN GALLAGHER	HERBERT WILLIAMS (Vice-Chairman)

Non-Members of the Council:

JOHN EDMUND KEIR MOORE, B.M., B.CH. CYRIL FRANCIS WRIGHT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
ERNEST EDMUND VAUGHAN, M.B., B.S.

STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1964

Acting Medical Officer of Health:

GILBERT VINCENT GRIFFIN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Vacant

Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Senior School Medical Officer:

JOHN BEASLEY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers:

VIOLET FRASER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ETHEL A. FISHER, M.SC., M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G.

JOHN OWEN LLOYD JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

GEORGE S. SORRIE, M.B., CH.B., D(OBST.)R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

MICHAEL FRANCIS HOWARD BUSH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.C.H.

Medical Officers (Part-time) Maternity and Child Welfare:

A. J. H. HARDY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M(OBST.)R.C.O.G.

P. W. F. McILVENNA, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Public Analysts:

F. A. LYNE, B.SC., F.R.I.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. GREEN, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. SYRAD, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors:

Senior Inspectors:

R. W. BASHFORD (Sampling)

D. V. C. COOPER (Meat)

A. D. E. HARDING (Housing)

M. CARTER (Meat)

J. HANDBY (Meat)

J. COWBURN (Housing)

E. J. W. CROWLE (Meat)

District Public Health Inspectors:

H. MORTIMORE

R. C. GOSLING

B. C. MORGAN

E. ALEXANDER

J. J. McLAREN

G. EVANS—commenced 13.7.64

Superintendent Health Visitor:

MISS M. WEBBER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Group Advisors:

*MISS F. L. GATES

*MISS E. P. E. FEW

Health Visitors:

*MISS H. A. MORTIMER

*MISS P. J. HONEYBALL

*MISS M. J. M. WILLIAMSON

*MISS S. R. JONES

*MISS J. SMITH

*MISS G. E. THOMAS

*MISS S. G. HANSFORD

*MISS M. E. GRANT

*MISS B. H. WHITE

*MISS J. N. WESTALL

*MISS J. FIELD

*MISS D. H. D. BAKER

*MISS M. HOWELL—commenced 1.8.64

MRS. A. ALLISON (Part-time)

MRS. M. P. EVANS (Part-time)

*Combined Health Visitor and School Nurse

Tuberculosis Visitors:

MISS. M. M. GIBSON—commenced 27.1.64

MRS. G. M. RAKE

Tuberculosis Welfare Officer:

Vacant

Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives:

MISS F. L. MEACHAM, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Domiciliary Midwives:

MISS E. J. ODELL

MISS E. XINOMILOU

MISS V. GARRIGAN

MISS F. HOLLAND

MISS R. MILLIKEN

MISS M. HALL

MISS B. LOYE

MISS E. PIKE

MISS M. FOX

MISS E. CHARNELL

commenced 1.4.64

MISS T. E. J. SHIPP

MISS A. M. ROBINSON

MISS M. J. NELSON

MISS J. ARGYLE

MRS. Y. M. TROTTIER

commenced 18.12.64

Welfare Officer for Commonwealth Citizens:

MISS. A. B. BURTON

Family Welfare Officers:

MRS. L. DORWARD

MRS. D. C. HOLLINGUM
(Part-time)**Senior Mental Welfare Officers:**

C. E. HOUSE

MRS. J. M. NORWOOD

MRS. A. J. TREGILLUS

Assistant Mental Welfare Officers:

V. A. LANDOR

D. A. HORN
commenced 1.2.64MISS M. WOODS
commenced 1.8.64**Chief Administrative Assistant:**

C. I. AUST

Domestic Help Service:

Supervisor:

MRS. H. A. FINCH

Assistant Supervisors:

MISS M. CHURCHILL

MRS. L. R. RUSSELL
(Part-time)MRS. E. G. DAVIES
(Part-time)**Training Centres:**

Supervisors:

MR. A. H. ALLEN

MISS V. J. COOK
commenced 1.9.64

MRS. R. ENGLISH

Superintendent Home Nursing Service:

Miss A. M. EDWARDS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Q.N.

Day Nursery:

Holybrook House: Mrs. M. MORRIS (Matron)

Blind Welfare Officer:

Miss M. L. LOWE

Home Teachers for the Blind:

MRS. A. E. BAKER

Mrs. M. E. HODGE

Welfare Officer "Other Classes" of Handicapped Persons:

MRS. J. D. SNOW

MRS. F. M. E. FORD

Occupational Therapist:

MISS J. STUART HAWKINS

Administrative Assistant for the Purposes of the National Assistance Act, 1948:

D. H. COMERFORD

Old People's Homes:**"Woodlands"**

G. HOGG (Superintendent)

Mrs. H. M. HOGG (Matron)

"Wychcotes" and "Warren House"

Mrs. E. J. ABLETT (Superintendent)

"Parkhurst"

Mrs. F. B. McADAM (Superintendent)

"Southern Hill"

Miss A. T. KEEGAN (Superintendent)

"Arthur Clark" and "Dysons Wood"

Mrs. R. H. DAVIES (Superintendent)

"Allce Jenkins"

Mrs. G. R. MEREDITH (Superintendent)

"Edward Hughes"MISS H. E. NOLAN (Superintendent)
commenced 1.7.64

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT
BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE,
173/4 FRIAR STREET,
READING.

September, 1965

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of your Medical Officer of Health for 1964 although the work referred to was carried out under the supervision of the late Dr. E. Hughes and subsequently of Dr. G. V. Griffin.

The most important event of the year was the untimely death in May 1964 of my predecessor, Dr. Hughes. To the many sincere and glowing tributes which have been paid all over the country to his ability and pre-eminence in the field of public health, I should like to add my own, for it is indeed a privilege to take over on your behalf the responsibility for the well established and efficient services he created. I hope I will be able to add my contribution to their further development.

The Report shows very well that the year was a busy one, with some definite progress and a considerable amount of work successfully completed. This reflects great credit to Dr. Griffin for his sound leadership while acting as Medical Officer of Health and to the rest of the staff for their support at a difficult time.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Committee on behalf of the staff for their continued interest in the work of the department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. GATHERER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	1964	1963
Area (acres)	9,106	9,106
Population (estimated June, 1964)	123,310	121,450
Area Comparability Factor:—		
Births	1.01	1.01
Deaths	0.99	0.99
Rateable Value	£6,539,198	£6,224,982
Product of a Penny Rate (31.3.65)	£27,100	£25,800

Total cost of Services administered by the Health Committee and the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee (Medical Services only) for the year ended March 31st, 1965:—

Expenditure <i>less</i> income (Other than Government Grants)	£459,344	£425,576
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*Live Births	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Birth Rate per 1,000 pop. (not adjusted)</i>
Total	2522 (2330)	1323 (1236)	1199 (1094)	20.45 (19.18)
Legitimate	2298 (2112)	1196 (1124)	1102 (988)	18.63 (17.39)
Illegitimate	224 (218)	127 (112)	97 (106)	1.82 (1.79)
*Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				8.88 (9.36)
*Stillbirths				44 (53)
Number of domiciliary stillbirths				3 (6)
*Stillbirths rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths (not adjusted)				17.15 (22.24)
*Total live and stillbirths				2566 (2383)

*Infant deaths (death under 1 year):—

Total	55 (45)
Legitimate	49 (40)
Illegitimate	6 (5)

*Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (not adjusted):—

Total	21.81 (19.31)
Legitimate	21.32 (18.94)
Illegitimate	26.79 (22.94)

*Deaths of infants under four weeks 44 (24)

*Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) 17.45 (10.30)

*Deaths of infants under one week 40 (19)

*Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) 15.84 (18.15)

*Peri-natal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	32.74	(30.21)
*Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	—	(—)
From sepsis	—	(—)
From other causes	—	(—)
*Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths .	—	(—)
*Deaths—Net	1,278	(1,484)
*Death Rate per 1,000 population (not adjusted) . .	10.36	(12.22)
*Deaths from cancer	279	(259)
Heart disease, all forms (other than coronary disease) and diseases of the circulatory system	208	(261)
Coronary heart disease	207	(262)
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	185	(215)
*Tuberculosis deaths:—		
All forms	4	(10)
Pulmonary	4	(9)
Non-Pulmonary	—	(1)
*Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 population:—		
All forms	0.03	(0.08)
Pulmonary	0.03	(0.07)
Non-Pulmonary	—	(0.01)
Number of Marriages	1,109	(1,043)

*Registrar-General's Return

All figures in brackets refer to 1963

Comparison of Vital Statistics for Reading with those for other Areas

	Reading (adjusted by Area Comparability Factor)	England and Wales
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population		
Births:—		
Live births	20.65	18.40
Stillbirths per 1,000 total births	17.32	16.30
Deaths:—		
All causes	10.26	11.30
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—		
Deaths:—		
All causes under 1 year of age	21.59	20.00

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT, 1964

MONTH	Rainfall and Temperature as Recorded at Forbury Gardens						Sunshine Hours as Recorded at Reading University		
	Rainfall in inches	Maximum	Minimum	Mean Maximum	Mean Minimum	*Mean Humidity	Monthly Aggregate of Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean Sunshine Hours	Daily Mean expressed as a percentage of Possible Sunshine
January ...	·63	50	22	38·51	33·13	85·09	49·2	1·59	19
February ...	·67	56	24	46·31	36·00	85·93	57·3	1·97	20
March ...	4·13	60	29	46·41	35·93	85·54	63·3	2·04	17
April ...	2·68	71	31	55·53	41·6	84·51	134·6	4·48	33
May ...	1·55	81	40	68·74	48·67	81·16	182·8	5·89	38
June ...	3·95	81	42	68·66	51·77	81·46	159·3	5·31	32
July ...	1·30	87	47	74·93	56·8	82·25	219·0	7·06	44
August ...	·78	87	44	74·54	54·25	83·87	205·9	6·64	22
September ...	·83	82	42	73·00	49·6	87·1	203·9	6·80	54
October ...	1·07	73	30	60·03	47·58	90·00	132·5	4·27	40
November ...	1·22	60	26	52·53	42·1	87·56	60·2	2·00	22
December ...	2·06	58	17	43·25	33·29	82·73	55·7	1·70	21
Year ...	20·87						1523·7	4·16	34

* as recorded at 9 a.m.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE, ETC.

[illegible]

Employment

I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information:—

The number of insured employees in the Reading Employment Exchange area was estimated to be 68,366 in June, 1963, the latest date for which statistics are available. The numbers employed in the main industry groups were:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Agriculture and Horticulture	1,343	331	1,674
Food, Drink and Tobacco	2,640	1,702	4,342
Building and Civil Engineering	6,018	342	6,360
Clothing Manufacture	206	648	854
Distributive Trades	5,226	5,089	10,315
Engineering (including vehicle manufacture and repair)	5,329	1,259	6,588
Timber Furniture and Shop Fittings	1,094	309	1,403
Government Service (National and Local)	2,366	1,283	3,649
Hotel and Catering	344	935	1,279
Plastic Manufacture	498	522	1,020
Printing and Publishing	1,646	862	2,508
Transport (road and rail) and Communication	3,481	653	4,134

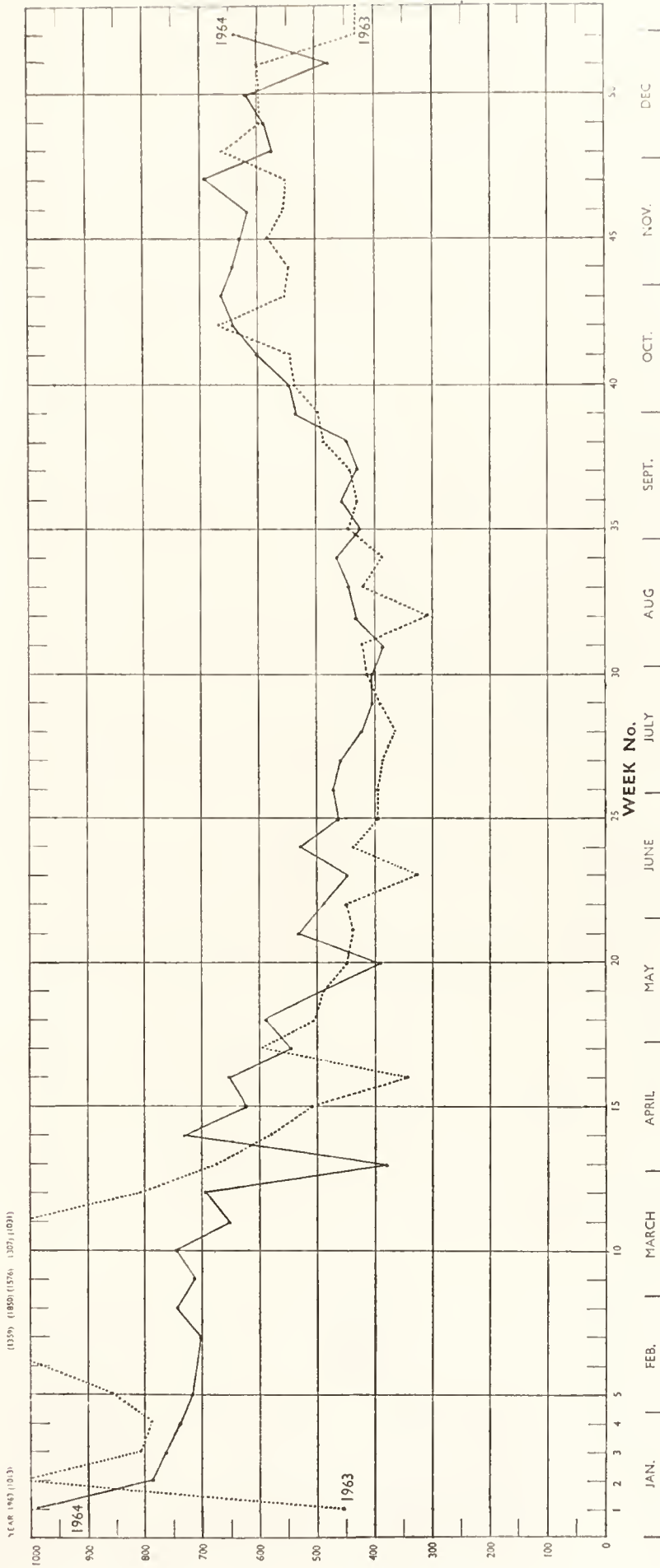
During 1964 the high level of employment normally experienced in the area was maintained. While demand for labour generally was noticeably high, this was particularly so for female workers, for whom there was a wide variety of opportunity in industry and commerce. Demand for skilled craftsmen, particularly in the construction and engineering industries, continued to be well in excess of the numbers available. Prospects for semi-skilled and unskilled workpeople were also good.

Unemployment decreased steadily during the spring and summer months and was at a consistently low level during the remainder of the year. Each month showed a decrease compared with the corresponding period in 1963. The number of unemployed in December, 1964, expressed as a percentage of the estimated number of insured employees in the Reading Employment Exchange area (including Henley) was 0.7% compared with a national rate at that time of 1.5%. In December, 1963, the comparable rates were 0.9% and 2.0%.

The number of persons registered as unemployed at the Reading Employment Exchange and the Reading C.B. Youth Employment Office at quarterly intervals during 1964, were as follows:—

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
March . . .	384	126	22	7	539
June . . .	298	105	18	8	429
September . . .	321	110	39	31	501
December . . .	355	104	9	8	476

NUMBER OF NEW CLAIMS FOR SICKNESS BENEFIT PER WEEK 1964 (Ministry of National Insurance Returns)



CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH. (Registrar-General's Return)

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS										65-74	75 and Over
					M. F.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	M. F.	M. F.		
1—Tuberculosis (respiratory)	4	3 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—		
2—Tuberculosis (other)	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—Syphilitic disease	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
4—Diphtheria	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—Whooping Cough	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—Meningococcal Infections	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8—Measles	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9—Other infective and parasitic diseases	3	1 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
10—Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	32	18 14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
11— " Lung, bronchus	54	48 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
12— " Breast	25	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
13— " Uterus	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
14—Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	159	77 82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
15—Leukaemia, aleukaemia	7	4 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
16—Diabetes	18	8 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
17—Vascular lesions of nervous system	185	79 106	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
18—Coronary disease, angina	207	121 86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
19—Hypertension with heart disease	19	8 11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
20—Other heart disease	139	51 88	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
21—Other circulatory disease	50	23 27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
22—Influenza	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
23—Pneumonia	87	42 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
24—Bronchitis	63	48 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
25—Other diseases of respiratory system	4	4 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
26—Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	3 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
27—Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	8	5 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
28—Nephritis and nephrosis	5	4 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
29—Hyperplasia of prostate	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
30—Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31—Congenital malformations	19	8 11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
32—Other defined and ill-defined diseases	100	43 57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
33—Motor vehicle accidents	12	7 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
34—All other accidents	35	11 24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
35—Suicide	20	7 13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
36—Homicide and operation of war	2	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
TOTALS	1278	632 646	26 18	7 4	5 3	1 —	—	11 3	5 6	23 18	46 45	127 82	146 145	235 322		
		1278	44	11	8	1	—	14	11	41	91	209	291	557		

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF HEALTH CENTRES

There have been no schemes formulated to provide Health Centres in accordance with Section 21 of the Act during the current year.

SECTION 22—CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS, AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

(a) "Risk" Register

Early recognition of disability in babyhood is just as important in the prevention of handicap as early diagnosis in the cure of disease. In Reading a "Risk" Register was first set up in 1959; initially designed to identify all children whose hearing should be tested, it is now used to indicate the babies who may develop a disability.

The "At Risk" concept depends upon the careful definition of the harmful factors which increase the likelihood of abnormality. At first it is natural to draw up a list of every conceivable potentially noxious factor, however, such indiscriminate criteria defeat their own object because they tend to include far too great a proportion of the total child population.

Table to show the Proportion of the Total Births placed *on the Risk Register in Reading annually 1959-63.*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Number of Babies Placed on the Risk Register</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Births Registered</i>
1959	1981	417	21%
1960	2028	472	23%
1961	2117	531	25%
1962	2169	678	31%
1963	2203	910	41%

It is interesting to notice how our sources of information improved as time went by until, in 1963, nearly half the babies born were placed on the Register. Obviously, the criteria for inclusion were too widely drawn and the Register was becoming meaningless.

List of Criteria for Admission to the Risk Register in use in 1963.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Family history of deafness | 6. Hydramnios |
| 2. Infection in pregnancy | 7. Hyperemesis |
| 3. Haemorrhage in pregnancy | 8. Other Maternal Disease |
| 4. RH Incompatibility | 9. Prolonged Labour |
| 5. Toxaemia | 10. Malpresentation |

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 11. Forceps delivery | 17. Infection of infant |
| 12. Caesarian Section | 18. Malformation |
| 13. Multiple births | 19. Cyanotic attacks |
| 14. Other abnormalities of labour | 20. Feeding difficulties |
| 15. Anoxia | 21. Other abnormalities of infants |
| 16. Jaundice | |

It was decided that a more discriminating list should be prepared which would produce a "Risk" group of about 10% of the births. The following criteria have been used since January 1st, 1964. The figures refer to the numbers of babies placed on the Register for each reason during 1964:—

1. Family history of deafness and dumbness	—	35
2. Virus infection of the mother before the 16th week of pregnancy	—	22
3. Threatened abortion or ante-partum haemorrhage	—	162
4. Exchange transfusion or a serum bilirubin over 20 mgms %	—	29
5. Hydramnios	—	0
6. Evidence of foetal distress, post-partum distress or anoxia, including delay in the establishment of respiration of over three minutes, from whatever cause	—	91
7. All second twins	—	26
8. Prematurity if the birth weight is less than 3 lb. 12 ozs.	—	17
9. Malformation if needing treatment or likely to give rise to handicap	—	1
10. Cyanotic attacks	—	10
11. Significant feeding difficulties	—	4
12. Any other cogent reason (for instance, maternal age over 40 or consanguinity).	—	51

Monthly analysis

Total live births in 1964	2,522
Number of children placed on the Risk Register in 1964	380 (15%)
January	25
February	32
March	41
April	47
May	37
June	30
July	26
August	33
September	28
October	22
November	34
December	25
	<hr/>
	380
	<hr/>

The revised list of criteria reduced the number of children considered "at risk" to 15% of the total live births. In subsequent years a careful analysis of the defects detected in this group compared to defects in the non-selected babies will indicate the sensitivity and reliability of the criteria used.

(b) Congenital Abnormalities

Continuing the arrangement started in 1963, a special note has been kept of all congenital abnormalities including congenital malformations discernable at birth. Returns have been made to the Registrar General on the prescribed form as requested in the Ministry of Health Circular letter of November 7th, 1963, which came into force on January 1st, 1964.

<i>C.N.S.</i>			<i>Limbs</i>		
Anencephalus . . .	6		Defects of lower limb NOS	2	
Hydrocephalus . . .	4		Reduction deformities . . .	2	
Spina bifida . . .	8		Polydactyly . . .	4	
			Syndactyly . . .	2	
<i>Eye, ear</i>			Talipes . . .	7	
Cataract . . .	1		Other defects of hand . . .	2	
Accessory auricle . . .	1		Other defects of lower limb	4	
<i>Alimentary</i>			<i>Other skeletal</i>	0	
Cleft lip . . .	2				
Defects of liver . . .	1		<i>Other systems</i>		
Pyloric stenosis . . .	4		Branchial defects . . .	2	
			Defects of face . . .	1	
<i>Heart and great vessels</i>			Vascular defects of skin	9	
C.H.D. NOS . . .	2		Other defects of skin . . .	8	
Common truncus . . .	1		Exomphalos . . .	1	
Aortic arch defects . . .	1				
V.S.D. . . .	1		<i>Other malformations</i>		
			Mongolism . . .	7	
<i>Respiratory system</i>			Other defects . . .	1	
Defects of diaphragm . . .	2				
			Total . . .	89	
<i>Uro-genital system</i>					
Hypospadias . . .	2				
Defects of male genitalia	1		Live Births: . . .	80	
			Still Births: . . .	9	

(c) Phenylketonuria

Arrangements for testing for Phenylketonuria have continued as in previous years, two tests being made—one at 14 days and one at 6 weeks. 2,439 babies were so

tested, again with no positive results. This is a screening technique which does not seem to be justified by the results. A great deal of effort is involved in ensuring that each child is tested. With an estimated incidence of one in 16,000 live births, we are not likely to record a positive result inside six years of testing. This matter is under serious consideration as to its justification for continuance in its present form.

(d) Register of Handicapped Pre-School Children

This Register has been continued as in previous years and children with a handicapping condition which is likely to produce an educational difficulty when they become of a compulsory school age are placed on this Register so that they may be regularly reviewed and adequate provision made for them by the time they enter school. There are at present 240 children on the Register with a diagnostic classification as shown below:—

Blind and Partially Sighted	16
Perceptive Hearing Loss	3
Conductive Hearing Loss	5
Mongolism	14
Other Severe Mental Subnormality	16
Mental Subnormality	43
Cerebral Palsy	16
Notable Epilepsy	19
Asthma	2
Congenital Heart Disease	43
Orthopaedic Abnormalities	40
Speech Disorders	22
Other Abnormalities	41

(e) Infantile Mortality, Stillbirths and Peri-natal Mortality Rate

The following table gives the figures since 1949:—

	<i>I.M.R.</i>	<i>S.B.R.</i>	<i>P.N.R.</i>
1949	26.20	21.42	36.57
1950	26.10	22.75	38.84
1951	28.95	20.19	34.91
1952	23.19	26.52	34.98
1953	19.70	22.75	32.67
1954	29.20	17.28	33.39
1955	23.60	23.00	37.48
1956	18.13	18.00	30.01
1957	20.90	25.20	38.07
1958	21.78	19.86	34.26
1959	19.18	20.28	31.16
1960	20.35	17.14	29.52
1961	18.26	15.29	25.63
1962	20.36	19.52	31.06
1963	19.31	22.24	30.21
1964	21.81	17.15	32.74

The table on page 39 gives the cause of death of infants during the first year of life.

(f) Ante-natal Clinics

Medical ante-natal attention continues to be given to expectant mothers in the general practitioners' own surgeries but the Local Authority clinics continue to be used by the domiciliary midwifery staff for midwives ante-natal sessions which have continued satisfactorily and appear to be well appreciated by the patients.

The co-operation card issued by the Ministry of Health has continued to be used throughout the year. The midwives and general practitioners were not very enthusiastic about this card when it was introduced in 1963 and there is very little sign that their enthusiasm has increased during 1964.

The midwives ante-natal sessions continued to be held at the following times:—

Star Lane	Monday afternoons Friday afternoons Saturday afternoons, ante-natal exercises
Southcote	Tuesday afternoons
Whitley	Monday afternoons (with doctor) Tuesday afternoons Thursday afternoons
Tilehurst	Wednesday afternoons Friday afternoons Saturday afternoons, ante-natal exercises
Emmer Green	Monday afternoons
Norcot	Thursday afternoons

Number of women in attendance		Number of sessions held by				Total number of sessions in columns 3-6
For ante-natal examination	For post-natal examination	Medical Officers	Midwives	G.P.'s employed on sessional basis	Hospital Medical Staff	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1,920	37	—	437	101	—	538

The attendances at Midwives' sessions were as follows:—

	<i>No. of Sessions</i>	<i>New Attendances</i>	<i>Re-attendances</i>
Star Lane . . .	99	289	1,832
Southcote . . .	52	77	852
Emmer Green . . .	52	115	524
Whitley . . .	102	125	1,188
Tilehurst . . .	102	213	1,415
Norcot . . .	39	16	148

Arrangements continue for the issue of maternity outfits of an approved pattern for all mothers who are to be confined at home.

Blood Tests

Venepuncture for the purpose of carrying out blood tests for Rhesus factor and Khan tests for general practitioners has continued as in previous years.

General Practitioner patients at Star Lane	1,370
Clinic patients at Whitley	137
General Practitioner patients at Whitley	72

Post-Natal Clinic

There are no special post-natal sessions. These examinations are carried out in conjunction with the ante-natal sessions by the patient's own doctor.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children

This work is carried out in collaboration with the Reading and Bradfield Association for Moral Welfare and other agencies. I am indebted to the Welfare Officer of Reading and Bradfield Moral Welfare Association for the following information:—

During 1964, 122 cases were referred to the Association for help and 30 case were brought forward from 1963 who are still in receipt of help.

Annual Record of Cases for 1964

Total No. of New Cases	122
„ „ of New Maternity Cases	120
„ „ of Old Maternity Cases	28
„ „ of Old Cases still in hand	30

New Maternity Cases Only

<i>Mothers</i>		<i>Fathers</i>		<i>Marital Status (Mothers)</i>	
14 years —	—	17 years —	—	Single	96
15 „ 4		17/20 „ 14		Married	19
16 „ 8		21/30 „ 58		Widowed	2
17/20 „ 46		31/40 „ 14		Divorced	3
21/30 „ 48		Over 40 „ 3		Not Known	—
31/40 „ 12		Not known 31		<i>Marital Status (Putative Fathers)</i>	
Over 40 „ 2				Single	58
<hr/>		<hr/>		Married	29
120		120		Widowed	1
				Divorced	2
				Not known	30
				<i>Domicile of Mothers</i>	
				Home in area	89
				Home elsewhere	31

Position of Children at end of 1964

(new and old cases)	<i>Total</i>
Living with mother in her home or lodgings	54
Mother responsible for and access to child	10
Adopted	32
Advised, etc. before being passed on	10
Babies died	3
Miscarriages and abortions	2
Cases still in hand	37
	<hr/>
	148
	<hr/>

Welfare Foods

The arrangements for the distribution of welfare foods continued satisfactorily at our premises at No. 1 London Street.

The following table gives details of the foods distributed:—

National Dried Milk Half Cream (20 oz. tins)	225
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20 oz. tins)	4,611
Orange Juice (bottles)	14,277
Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	634
Vitamin Capsules (packets)	1,655

The following figures relate to the main items distributed from the clinics during the year and are in addition to the preceding:—

National Dried Milk Half Cream (20 oz. tins)	9
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Half Cream (16 oz. packets)	1,560
National Dried Milk Full Cream (20 oz. tins)	4,069
Proprietary brands of Dried Milk Full Cream (16 oz. packets)	30,960
Ministry of Food Orange Juice (bottles)	23,606
Proprietary brands of Fruit Juice (bottles)	29,280
Ministry of Food Cod Liver Oil Compound (bottles)	1,310
Ministry of Food Vitamin Capsules (packets)	1,341
Proprietary brands of Vitamin Preparations (8 c.c. bottles)	10,200

SUMMARY OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES SINCE 1914

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 Living	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality			Total No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Living
						Sepsis	Others	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1914	90,083	1,819	20.19	161	88.5	1	6	3.9	1,082	12.01
1915	86,299	1,792	19.89	147	82.0	3	3	3.4	1,199	13.89
1916	92,563	1,794	19.38	145	80.8	4	—	2.2	1,230	14.46
1917	91,936	1,420	15.44	140	98.6	3	4	4.9	1,172	14.21
1918	92,320	1,582	17.14	115	72.7	3	4	4.4	1,317	15.98
1919	95,175	1,593	16.7	109	68.4	1	3	2.5	1,091	11.9
1920	95,387	2,278	24.8	152	66.7	4	7	3.9	1,016	11.04
1921	92,274	1,892	20.4	114	60.2	—	1	0.5	1,069	10.7
1922	92,990	1,729	18.5	109	63.04	—	2	1.16	1,135	12.2
1923	93,160	1,705	18.3	88	51.6	3	8	6.4	1,036	11.12
1924	93,680	1,603	17.1	86	53.6	—	5	3.1	1,006	10.7
1925	93,910	1,509	16.07	85	56.3	2	5	4.6	1,042	11.12
1926	93,290	1,624	17.6	83	50.5	4	1	3.0	1,139	12.2
1927	94,890	1,456	15.3	62	42.5	1	2	2.0	1,165	12.3
1928	97,190	1,489	15.48	80	53.6	4	6	6.7	1,147	11.9
1929	97,050	1,446	14.9	75	50.5	1	3	2.8	1,373	14.1
1930	97,050	1,404	14.4	77	54.8	—	3	2.1	1,114	11.4
1931	97,149	1,477	15.1	66	44.6	1	3	2.7	1,169	12.0
1932	97,636	1,396	14.3	77	55.2	1	5	4.29	1,253	12.8
1933	98,950	1,380	13.9	87	63.0	1	4	2.9	1,370	13.6
1934	99,250	1,414	14.25	58	41.02	3	1	2.8	1,183	11.9
1935	99,600	1,475	14.8	76	51.5	2	1	1.9	1,230	12.3
1936	100,000	1,436	14.3	73	51.0	1	2	2.1	1,275	12.8
1937	100,200	1,581	15.8	79	49.7	—	3	1.8	1,306	13.0
1938	100,400	1,582	15.7	60	39.9	1	6	4.4	1,259	12.5
1939	100,600	1,564	15.5	79	50.5	1	5	3.9	1,327	13.2
1940	114,600	1,725	15.0	88	51.0	—	1	0.5	1,606	14.1
1941	124,800	1,913	15.3	113	59.0	2	5	3.7	1,532	12.2
1942	117,800	1,833	15.0	70	38.2	1	1	1.1	1,298	11.0
1943	113,000	1,925	17.03	83	43.1	1	4	2.6	1,385	12.2
1944	111,340	2,139	19.2	87	40.7	—	4	1.8	1,311	12.0
1945	108,830	2,066	18.8	98	47.4	1	3	1.9	1,400	12.8
1946	111,340	2,226	20.0	98	44.0	—	2	0.89	1,382	12.4
1947	112,960	2,533	22.4	89	35.1	—	2	0.77	1,395	12.3
1948	114,500	2,100	17.88	71	34.6	2	2	1.9	1,311	11.45
1949	115,500	1,873	16.26	47	26.2	—	1	0.52	1,260	10.93
1950	115,770	1,761	15.21	46	26.1	—	—	—	1,344	11.61
1951	115,100	1,833	15.93	52	28.95	—	1	0.55	1,402	12.18
1952	115,800	1,772	15.30	40	23.19	—	—	—	1,285	11.09
1953	117,700	1,714	14.56	33	19.70	—	3	1.75	1,255	10.66
1954	118,300	1,678	14.18	49	29.20	—	1	0.58	1,246	10.53
1955	118,100	1,695	14.35	40	23.60	—	—	—	1,358	11.5
1956	117,900	1,765	14.97	32	18.13	—	—	—	1,348	11.43
1957	118,100	1,818	15.39	38	20.90	—	1	0.54	1,273	10.78
1958	117,900	1,974	16.74	43	21.78	—	—	—	1,255	10.64
1959	118,200	1,981	16.76	38	19.18	—	—	—	1,400	11.84
1960	118,110	2,064	17.48	42	20.35	—	1	0.48	1,306	11.06
1961	121,040	2,190	18.09	40	18.26	—	—	—	1,393	11.51
1962	121,420	2,210	18.20	45	26.36	—	1	0.44	1,508	12.42
1963	121,450	2,330	19.18	45	19.31	—	—	—	1,484	12.22
1964	123,310	2,522	20.45	55	21.81	—	—	—	1,278	10.36

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Following discussion and re-thinking of the functions of an infant welfare clinic arrangements were instituted at some clinics in the Borough that the medical officer would see selected groups of children rather than the total group who attended at t



NORCOT CLINIC

clinic. The medical officer would see babies who had shown some developmental variation from normal, those who were on the Risk or Handicapped Register, the children that the Health Visitors were concerned about for whatever reason, and children that the mothers specifically requested the medical officer to see. The sessions were arranged on an appointments system to the mutual benefit of patients and doctors. This re-organisation emphasises the essential role of the Health Visitor in dealing with the greater percentage of normal babies attending the clinics and advising the mothers on their care, whereas the doctor's time was more profitably spent in concentrating on assessment, developmental diagnosis and on children who were in anyway presenting a problem.

The following table gives particulars of attendance at the clinics.

Centre	No. of Sessions	New attend- ances under 1 year	Total Attendances			Total attend- ances	Average attend- ances
			Under 1 year	1 & under 2	2 & under 5		
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Road, Reading—							
Tuesday a.m.	52	69	985	216	175	1,376	26
Tuesday p.m.	52	115	1,754	481	255	2,490	48
Thursday p.m.	53	97	1,306	438	254	1,998	38
Tilehurst Clinic. "The Laurels," School Road—							
Monday p.m.	49	113	1,481	357	376	2,214	45
Thursday p.m.	53	156	1,880	465	336	2,681	51
Star Lane, London Street, Rdg.—							
Tuesday p.m.	52	147	1,479	407	247	2,133	41
Wednesday a.m.	53	81	808	171	94	1,073	20
Wednesday p.m.	53	169	1,671	454	211	2,336	44
Whitley Clinic, Northumberland Avenue—							
Wednesday p.m.	53	154	1,809	381	160	2,350	44
Friday p.m.	51	116	1,447	254	128	1,829	36
Tynedale Free Church Hall, Shinfield—							
Thursday p.m.	53	108	1,417	353	206	1,976	37
West Memorial Institute, Caver- sham—							
Tuesday p.m.	52	105	1,502	379	321	2,202	42
Thursday p.m.	53	99	1,367	433	274	2,074	40
Park Institute, Wokingham Road, Reading—							
Monday p.m.	50	121	1,747	404	196	2,347	47
Friday p.m.	51	152	2,036	435	250	2,721	53
Emmer Green Clinic, Grove Road Wednesday p.m.	53	81	1,438	436	31	2,188	41
Southcote Clinic, Coronation Square—							
Wednesday p.m.	53	135	2,050	385	356	2,791	53
Friday p.m.	51	92	1,564	383	342	2,289	45
Norcot Clinic, Lyndhurst Road, Reading—							
Monday p.m.	46	57	695	220	150	1,065	23
Wednesday p.m.	47	58	773	204	203	1,180	25
Totals	1,030	2,225	29,209	7,256	4,848	41,313	

A new purpose built infant welfare clinic was opened by the Mayoress, Mrs. I. Butcher, on March 3rd, 1964. This was on the same pattern as the Emmer Green Clinic.

NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CLINICS, 1964

Centres provided by	Number of centres provided at end of year	Number of child welfare sessions now held per month at centres in col. 2	Number of children who first attended a centre of this Local Health Authority during the year and who attend-ance were under 1 year of age (4)	Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in :			Total number of children who attended during the year	Number of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were :			Total attendances during the year
				1964	1963	1959-62		Under 1 year	1 but under 2	2 but under 5	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
L.H.A.	10	86	2,225	2,137	1,589	1,765	5,491	29,209	7,256	4,848	41,313

Family Planning Clinic

The work of this Clinic continues to expand and I am grateful to the Secretary of the Reading Branch of the Family Planning Association for supplying the following information:—

During the year 141 sessions were held, at which 3,667 patients attended. 2,321 patients were seen by our doctors and of these 848 were "new" patients—i.e., attending Family Planning Association Clinic for the first time.

During the year premises were made available in Queens Road Clinic where the evening Family Planning Clinics could be held, making it possible for two doctors and two nurses to work simultaneously.

During 1964 the number of patients using the oral method of birth control now numbers 454.

During the year 315 cervical "smears" were also taken.

Care of Premature Infants

It will be seen from the table on page 26 that there were 183 premature live births during the year, compared with 193 in 1963, and 176 in 1962. The number of premature stillbirths was 27 as compared with 33 in 1963 and 31 in 1962. The total number of premature births (live and still) in 1964 was 210 as compared with 226 in 1963 and 207 in 1962.

We were able to employ a Premature Baby Nurse jointly with the Hospital Service in the autumn of this year. She has been concerned mainly with premature babies from the Premature Baby Unit in the Maternity Hospital, but it is hoped to extend her work to the premature babies which remain in their own homes.

PART B. PREMATURE BIRTHS

Number of premature births (as adjusted by any notifications transferred in or out of the area).

PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS, 1964														PREMATURE STILLBIRTHS	
Weight at birth	Born in hospital				Born at home or in a nursing home				Transferred to hospital on or before 28th day				Born		
	Total births (1)	Died			Total births (5)	Died			Total births (9)	Died			In hos- pital (13)	At home or in a nursing home (14)	
		Within 24 hours of birth (2)	In 1 and under 7 days (3)	In 7 and under 28 days (4)		Within 24 hours of birth (6)	In 1 and under 7 days (7)	In 7 and under 28 days (8)		Within 24 hours of birth (10)	In 1 and under 7 days (11)	In 7 and under 28 days (12)			
1. 2 lb. 3 oz. or less	6	6	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	1		
2. Over 2 lb. 3 oz. up to and including 3 lb. 4 oz.	12	2	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—		
3. Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz.	29	5	3	—	8	—	—	—	2	—	—	7	1		
4. Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz.	15	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	—		
5. Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz.	43	1	1	—	51	—	—	—	2	1	—	3	1		
6. Total	105	16	5	—	71	3	—	—	7	1	—	24	3		

REPORT ON PREMATURE INFANTS

Born January to December, 1960

REPORT AT FOUR YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	6	5	6	6	1	—	—	1 Cleft Palate
Group B	21	19	19	20	4	2	1	1 Toxo- plasmiosis: Hydro- cephalus: Diminished sight
Group C	25	23	24	24	2	1	1	1 Spastic 1 Hare lip 1 Backward with speech
Group D	46	44	45	45	2	1	1	1 Mongol 1 Tracheo- Oesophageal Fistula 1 Systolic murmur 1 Microcephalic

Born January to December, 1961

REPORT AT THREE YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	4	1	3	3	3	1	1	1 Spastic and Backward
Group B	16	16	14	15	—	2	1	1 Backward
Group C	21	16	18	17	5	3	4	1 Backward
Group D	45	42	45	43	3	—	2	1 Arrested Hydro- cephalus 1 Backward

Born January to December, 1962

REPORT AT TWO YEARS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	9	5	9	9	4	—	—	
Group B	11	8	9	9	3	2	2	1 Cardiac condition and Mongol 1 Systolic Murmur
Group C	21	18	20	20	3	1	1	1 Backward 1 Potters syndrome Ptosis of both lids 1 Congenital heart disease
Group D	71	68	70	71	3	1	—	1 Backward with speech 1 Marked Plagiocephly 1 Congenital Discolation of Hip

Born January to December, 1963
REPORT AT ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	
Group B	27	24	26	25	3	1	2	1 Hare lip Cleft palate Bilateral inguinal hernia Heart murmur
Group C	26	22	25	26	4	1	—	1 Backward 1 Spastic 1 Systolic murmur
Group D	88	80	88	88	8	—	—	1 Backward with convulsions 1 Systolic murmur

Born January to June, 1964
REPORT AT SIX MONTHS OF AGE

	Total	Average Wt./Ht.	Average Physical Develop.	Average Mental Develop.	Below Average Wt./Ht.	Below Average Physically	Below Average Mentally	Remarks
Group A	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	1 Convulsive fit
Group B	15	14	15	14	1	—	1	1 Mongol
Group C	13	12	13	13	1	—	—	
Group D	27	24	26	27	3	1	—	

Daily Minding Scheme

Daily minding continued during the year and was of great assistance to the mothers. The system whereby the Group Adviser concerned with supervision of the baby minding scheme puts mothers and minders in touch with each other has continued to run satisfactorily.

Number of interviews	. . . . .	58
Number of specific visits	. . . . .	30
Total Number of Minders on record	. . . . .	26
Number of children placed	. . . . .	29
Number of assisted payments	. . . . .	3

Two daily minders have become registered under the Nursery and Child Minders Act 1948 during the year.

Commonwealth Citizens in Reading

Miss A. B. Burton, Welfare Officer for Commonwealth Immigrants, reports as follows:—

The Service has been mainly used by West Indians and the problems found are similar to those of previous years.

Below are details of an analysis of their problems.

Child Care and Baby Minding	205
Adult Welfare	297
Child Migration	271
Adult Migration	186
Matrimonial Problems	96
Miscellaneous	151
	<hr/>
Total	1,206
	<hr/>

Contact with the Pakistani Welfare Association is friendly. The Pakistani community is mainly composed of single men whose eventual intention is to return to their own country. They wish to preserve their own way of life and conserve their savings against their return. Difficulties, however, have arisen when relatively young children are brought to this country to be domiciled in an all working male household. During this year more people of Asian extraction have moved into the Borough.

The West Indian migrant coming to work to better himself often has heavy commitments. Having obtained a job, he usually saves to bring his wife over, to buy a house and again to bring his children over. During this period he should continue to support his family until they can join him in England.

Stress continues to be felt in relationships between husband and wife, parents and children, some arising from the different social environment.

Single West Indian girls with children continue to have difficulty in finding lodgings and baby minders; and as the money obtained from the father is never sufficient to make them independent, they become increasingly bored and frustrated because they cannot go out to work.

Married women with children also experience the same difficulties; and babies often have to return to their grandmothers in the West Indies.

Efforts have been made to stress the importance of play to children. This, however, is often difficult in crowded lodgings. Parents have been advised to put their children's names down on lists for Nursery Schools. Migrants generally are keen on education and their children enjoy school. Parents, however, are rather concerned by the more permissive forms of discipline they find in English schools as opposed to the rather Victorian standards in their own countries.

A large amount of information on Family Planning, Nursery Schools, Town Planning, Housing and Child Care has been circulated to immigrants.

N.S.P.C.C.

I am very grateful to Mr. Curran, the Local Inspector for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, for the following remarks:—

During the year the Society was called upon to investigate 69 cases involving the welfare of 163 children. Of these cases 27 were of neglect which ranged from the father of the family not providing adequately for his children, to small children being left alone and to dirty home conditions.

15 of the cases came within the category of assault and ill treatment and these varied from actual physical assault to rejection.

There were 8 cases within other categories while in 19 other cases the Society was approached by the parents themselves for advice and assistance regarding their children.

The Society felt it necessary to bring two cases before the Magistrates Court where convictions were obtained. At the ensuing Juvenile courts the home conditions and circumstances were such that the children involved were allowed to remain with their families but with proper safeguards for their future.

I would here like to mention the happy degree of co-operation that exists in the Borough between all branches of the statutory authorities who deal with children and those of the voluntary organisations. Such co-operation does a great deal towards dealing with the more complex problems.

Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children

Mr. J. Campbell, L.D.S., Principal Dental Officer, reports as follow :—

Pre-School Children

There is a slight decrease in the number of pre-school children (197) compared to the previous year. Of those seen, 133 were found to require treatment and of those 97 attended the clinic. 80 courses of treatment were completed.

As in previous years the Hygienist continues to give instruction to mothers in the dental care of their young children and attended the "Health Month" at Whitley for this purpose.

Expectant and Nursing Mothers

Four mothers attended for treatment. Three extractions and fourteen fillings were done. No dentures were supplied during the year.

The following tables give further details of the treatment carried out:—

TYPE OF TREATMENT GIVEN

	Pre-school	Mothers
Inspected	197	4
Found to require treatment ...	133	4
Treated	97	4
Attendances	138	19
Extractions	82	3
Local Anaesthetics	6	14
General Anaesthetics	34	—
Fillings	33	14
Clean and Polish	6	1
Dressings	17	1
Silver Nitrate	84	—
Partial Dentures	—	—
Discharged	80	3

A. NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE

	Number of persons examined during the year (1)	Number of persons who commenced treatment during the year (2)	Number of courses of treatment completed during the year (3)
1. Expectant and Nursing Mothers ..	4	4	3
2. Children aged under five years and not eligible for school dental service ..	197	97	80

B. FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scalings and gum treatment (1)	Fillings (2)	Silver Nitrate Treatment (3)	Crowns and Inlays (4)	Extrac- tions (5)	General Anaes- thetics (6)	Dentures Provided			Radio- graphs (9)
							Full Upper or Lower (7)	Partial Upper or Lower (8)		
1. Expectant and Nursing Mothers	1	14	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
2. Children aged under five years and not eligible for school dental services	6	33	84	—	82	34	—	—	—	—

SECTION 23—DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Year	Total Confinements	Domiciliary Confinements	Percentage of Total
1940	1,725	931	54.0
1941	1,913	931	49.0
1942	1,833	858	46.8
1943	1,925	907	47.0
1944	2,139	925	43.2
1945	2,066	806	39.0
1946	2,226	791	35.5
1947	2,250	765	34.0
1948	2,100	645	30.7
1949	1,855	603	32.5
1950	1,809	559	30.9
1951	1,805	635	35.1
1952	1,767	614	34.7
1953	1,700	601	35.3
1954	1,678	615	36.6
1955	1,707	603	35.2
1956	1,784	699	39.2
1957	1,849	828	44.8
1958	1,970	878	44.6
1959	1,982	872	43.9
1960	2,062	965	46.8
1961	2,136	955	44.7
1962	2,254	906	40.2
1963	2,337	938	40.1
1964	2,588	1,041	40.2

I am delighted to be able to report that the staff position which improved last year continued to be favourable and that for the bulk of the year we were fully established.

The central sterilisation of equipment continued and the pre-packing of maternity bags. This service is one much appreciated by the midwives since they are no longer involved with tedious scrubbing and preparing of their equipment while tired following a delivery. It is probably one factor in our happier staffing situation.

The total number of births in Reading and the surrounding district continues to rise and for the first year the number of domiciliary births exceeded one thousand.

Because of pressure on maternity beds, both at Battle and the extended General Practitioner Unit at Dellwood, the system of early discharges from such beds has continued in order to avoid dangerous overcrowding. Such patients as are discharged before the fourth day are cared for by one of the domiciliary midwives, but if they are discharged after the fourth day they are cared for by one of the home nurses who are also qualified midwives.

296 were discharged home before the tenth day and 1,038 were looked after by domiciliary midwives. The nursing services are not the only section of the department involved in this question of early discharge since in most cases a home help is also required to enable the mother to pick up the threads of domestic management more slowly than she might otherwise have to do.

Stillbirths

There were 48 stillbirths reported during the year as compared with 50 in the previous year. The stillbirth rate per thousand births during recent years has been as follows:—

1955	.	.	.	.	23.00
1956	.	.	.	.	19.00
1957	.	.	.	.	25.20
1958	.	.	.	.	19.86
1959	.	.	.	.	20.28
1960	.	.	.	.	17.14
1961	.	.	.	.	15.29
1962	.	.	.	.	19.52
1963	.	.	.	.	22.24
1964	.	.	.	.	17.15

The probable causes were as follows:—

Domiciliary

Gross abnormalities	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Placenta grossly infarcted	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Macerated	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

Dellwood

Gross maceration	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Placenta infarcted and calcified	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
?—Cause 6 weeks premature	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Large meningocoele	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Toxaemia (Maternal)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Anencephalic	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

Battle Hospital

Macerated twins	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Post mature Mother epileptic	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

Gross maceration	2
Placental insufficiency Macerated possibly due to hypertension	1
Anencephalic	4
No obvious cause	2
Gross placental infarction	3
Macerated, no obvious cause	5
RH incompatibility	2
Hydrops foetalis	1
A.P.H.	5
Hydrocephalic	1
Cord 4 times around neck	1
Toxaemia of Mother	1
Twins, both cord knotted together tightly twice	2
Prematurity	1
APH Hydrops foetalis	1

The Haven Mother and Baby Home

No obvious cause	1
Hydrocephalic	1

Maternal Deaths

Once again there were no maternal deaths during the year among Reading residents.

Puerperal Pyrexia

During the year 5 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified.

Ophthalmia neonatorum

No cases were reported during the year.

Relaxation Classes

These are held at Star Lane Clinic and Tilehurst Clinic on Saturday afternoons. Details of those attending are as follows:—

Tilehurst

No. of classes held	50
No. of new members	133
Total attendances	893

Star Lane Clinic

New members	334
Total attendances	1,143

Coombs Test

The arrangements whereby midwives take samples of cord blood for Coombs test in Rh. negative mothers confined at home continued through the year. In all, 151 samples were taken.

Total Births which occurred in the Borough—Reading and Non-Reading Residents (based on notifications)

Births

Male	2,334	Legitimate	4,293	Live	4,354
Female	2,123	Illegitimate	164	Still	103

Weights

2 lb. 3 oz. or under	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	18
2 lb. 4 oz.—3 lb. 4 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	44
3 lb. 5 oz.—4 lb. 6 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	140
4 lb. 7 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	83
5 lb.—5 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	198
5 lb. 8 oz.—5 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	221
6 lb.—6 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	491
6 lb. 8 oz.—6 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	683
7 lb.—7 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	782
7 lb. 8 oz. or over	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,797

Places of Birth

Domiciliary	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,052
Hospital	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,537
H.M.C. Maternity Homes	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	853
Contractual	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
Private	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	—

Dellwood

Number of patients delivered by midwives	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	832
Number of patients delivered by doctors	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Number of infants wholly breast fed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	693
Maternal deaths	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Nil

Particulars of Confinements of Reading Women Inside and Outside the Borough (based on notifications)

Births

Male	1,360	Legitimate	2,462	Live	2,542
Female	1,228	Illegitimate	126	Still	46

Weights

2 lb. 3 oz. or under	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
2 lb. 4 oz.—3 lb. 4 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	21
3 lb. 5 oz.—4 lb. 6 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	50
4 lb. 7 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	27
5 lb.—5 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	104
5 lb. 8 oz.—5 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	128
6 lb.—6 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	299
6 lb. 8 oz.—6 lb. 15 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	391
7 lb.—7 lb. 7 oz.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	487
7 lb. 8 oz. or over	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,071

Place of Birth

Born in Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,533
Outside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	55

Domiciliary

Inside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,039
Outside Borough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2

Hospital

Battle (booked)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	819
Other	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	24

H.M.C. Maternity Homes

Dellwood	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	670
Wallingford	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Townlands	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Wokingham	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Others	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Nil

Contractual (Arrangements with Nursing Homes)

Chiltern	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by doctor	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	304
Domiciliary cases attended during labour by midwife only	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	737

PERIOD OF GESTATION

No. of Weeks	Total Borough Births	Other Area Births in the Borough	All Births in the Borough
22	—	—	—
23	—	—	—
24	3	—	3
25	1	—	1
26	—	2	2
27	1	—	1
28	4	10	14
29	6	5	11
30	9	12	21
31	8	10	18
32	13	18	31
33	2	11	13
34	12	33	45
35	14	18	32
36	66	84	150
37	67	102	169
38	241	194	435
39	293	239	532
40	1,377	898	2,275
41	248	151	399
42	137	117	254
43	26	20	46
44	5	—	5
45	—	—	—
	2,533	1,924	4,457

PART A. Domiciliary Midwifery

Employed by	Administrative and Supervisory Staff			Domiciliary Midwives		
	Whole-time	Part-time	Whole-time equivalent of (2)	Whole-time	Part-time	Whole-time equivalent of (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. The Authority	1	—	—	15	3	1
2. Voluntary organisations acting as agents for the Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. H.M.C. or B.G.	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Number of midwives approved as teachers included in lines 1-3 above	...	...	...	...	...	12

PART B. Other Midwives (not included in Part A).

1. Number practising in the Authority's area (excluding those in N.H.S. hospitals)	12
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PART C. Pupil Midwives

1. Number of pupils who have completed district training in the area during the year as part of a Part II midwifery course	Wholly on the district	7
	Partly on the district	13
2. Number in training at end of year	Wholly on the district	8
	Partly on the district	5

PART D. Deliveries Attended by Domiciliary Midwives during 1964

Number of domiciliary confinements attended by midwives under N.H.S. arrangements			Number of cases delivered in hospitals and other institutions but discharged and attended by domiciliary midwives before 10th day
Doctor not booked (1)	Doctor booked (2)	Total (3)	
—	1,038	1,038	296

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS, 1964

Cause	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total 1 month and under 1 year	Total under 1 year
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	3	2	6	8
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	9	2	—	1	12	2	—	—	1	3	15
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	26	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	26
All other accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Totals ...	41	3	—	1	45	3	3	3	3	12	57

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows:—

Superintendent Health Visitor/School Nurse	1
Group Advisors	2
Whole-time Health Visitors/School Nurses	13
Part-time Health Visitors	2
Whole-time School Nurses (permanent)	5
Part-time School Nurses (temporary)	3

The following table gives particulars of work carried out by Health Visitors during the year:—

Primary visits to babies born in 1964	2,368
Total routine visits to babies born in 1964	5,369
Total routine visits to babies born in 1963	6,220
Total routine visits to children born in 1959/62	14,329
Total number of persons visited, aged 65 or over	410
Total number of visits for hospital after-care cases	178
Total number of visits to adults	588
Total number of miscellaneous visits	1,154
Total number of tuberculous households visited	4
Total number of infant death investigations	46
Total number of effectual visits	30,692
Total number of ineffectual visits	4,932
Total number of attendances at clinics	2,039
Total number of families visited, first visit only	6,323
Total number of children visited, first visit only	9,739
Total number of children tested for phenylketonuria	2,439

The shortage of Health Visitors continues. Miss Marsh, Group Adviser, left to take the post of Deputy Superintendent Health Visitor at Bristol in January. Miss M. Howell joined the staff in August, having successfully completed her course of study at the Royal College of Nursing. One sponsored student commenced training in September at the Royal College of Nursing.

Norcot Infant Welfare Clinic was opened on March 3rd, and, although slow to start, has begun to show an increased attendance at the various sessions held there.

The Parents Club at Tilehurst Clinic has met once a month throughout the year, and the average attendance has been 25.

Health Education

The Health Visitors have continued to play an active role as Health Educators as the following classes and activities show.

Mothercraft Classes

Classes to expectant mothers have been given throughout the year at five Welfare Clinics. The attendance rate has increased and 316 expectant mothers completed the course.

Parentcraft to Schoolchildren

Nine Secondary Modern Schools in the Borough have continued to benefit from these classes given to teenage school girls. Programmes have varied according to the schools need and the time available. The regular weekly session given in one school proved successful and has continued throughout the year. The introduction to the syllabus of classes on Human Relationships, and preparation for the transition from schoolgirl to working girl, has given considerable help to these teenagers. Films and film strips have proved useful visual aids and in one school a film and discussion to a large mixed group on Smoking and Lung Cancer was given.

Pre-Nursing Course—Westwood Secondary School for Girls

One Health Visitor has again helped with this course and classes on Elementary First Aid were given during the year.

Nursery Nurse Training—Technical College, Reading

Two Health Visitors have given a total of twelve talks on First Aid, Prevention of Accidents in the Home, Home Nursing and Childhood Ailments, to the Nursery Nurse Students. These students have also visited Infant Welfare Clinics and Immunisation Clinics in the Borough.

Fairmile Hospital—Student Nurses

One Health Visitor has again given these students a course of five lectures on the work of the Public Health Department. Observation visits have been arranged, four students spending one week in the department at three monthly intervals.

The Royal Berkshire Hospital, London Road, Reading—Student Nurses

The two-day observation visits by groups of Student nurses to the department, have again been arranged at four monthly intervals. It is encouraging to learn from the Sister Tutors that the General Nursing Council Examiners are increasingly impressed by the Student Nurses' knowledge of the Public Health field.

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

Miss A. M. Edwards, Superintendent of the Home Nurses, reports as follows:—
There were very few changes in the work of the Home Nurses in 1964.

An all round increase of visits was made, again including mothers and babies discharged from hospital from the fourth day after delivery, also many visits to the elderly patients, often living alone, who look forward so much to the nurses' visits.

The new antibiotic drug CEPARIN was used quite extensively at the direction of patients' General Practitioners during the latter part of the year, two visits daily usually being paid.

The number of diabetic patients having insulin has decreased, more tablets are now prescribed for the older patients.

More iron injections were given, especially to the ante-natal patients to be delivered in hospital and post-natal patients on discharge—many of these were coloured people.

The prepared autoclaved equipment used for all our home nursing techniques has caused a good deal of interest and a Survey was undertaken in four areas of the country by a Research Officer on the staff of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing Headquarters in London. Reading was one of the areas chosen and three of our nurses took part in this investigation.

Most of the present day home nurses drive cars or auto-cycles and this is a great advantage from every point of view.

The staff situation continues to fluctuate and the recruitment of Student District Nurses was more difficult than it has been for several years. Four students only presented for training.

Arrangements were made for these four students to join the Berkshire County Council students for their course of lectures from September to December, 1964. This proved to be a very satisfactory arrangement.

The appointment of Miss M. Park as Assistant Superintendent in March, 1964 helped the two administrators considerably. It was possible to visit many more patients for assessment of their needs, rehabilitation and advice.

In November, 1964 the Administrators attended a course of four lectures at the Queen's Institute of District Nursing Headquarters in London on "Modern Methods of Teaching and Administration". They were very instructive and interesting.

The number of staff at the end of the year was as follows:—

Superintendent	1
Assistant Superintendents	2
District nurses who have completed their period of contract	10
District nurses completing their contract of service .	—
Student Nurses	4

Non-district trained nurses:—

Full-time	—
Part-time	4

Establishment is:—

Administrative Staff	4
Trained District Nurses	23

The following table gives a summary of the number of patients visited by nurses during the year:—

Total number of persons nursed during the year . . .	2,340
Number of persons who were aged under 5 at first visit in 1964	356
Number of persons who were aged 65 or over at first visit in 1964	849

The following table gives a comparison of home nursing work carried out since 1950, but I would repeat that a decrease compared with the earlier years is due to the separation of work in the Earley area and the corresponding loss of staff:—

Year	Number of cases nursed	Total number of visits
1950	2,761	84,029
1951	2,831	66,937
1952	3,082	74,168
1953	3,490	77,717
1954	3,294	81,089
1955	3,443	79,088
1956	2,380	79,738
1957	2,712	79,465
1958	2,440	77,836
1959	2,144	69,087
1960	1,845	60,599
1961	1,181	56,684
1962	1,730	47,325
1963	2,242	47,272
1964	2,340	52,366

SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (excluding B.C.G.)

Whooping Cough

The number of children who have completed a primary course (normally three injections) of pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) in the Authority's area during the year ended December 31st, 1964, is as follows:—

Year of birth	Number of Children
1964	781
1963	971
1962	126
1961	46
1960	22
1955-1959	50
1950-1954	3
Total:	1,999

Diphtheria

The numbers of children immunised against diphtheria are included in the table on page 45.

Poliomyelitis

During the year the numbers of people who completed a course of immunisation were as follows:—

Children born in 1964	295
Children born in 1963	1,173
Children born in 1962	229
Children born in 1961	86
Children and Young persons born in years 1943-60	313
Young persons born in years 1933-1942	52
Others	28
Number of persons who have received third injection	164
Number of persons who have received fourth injections	1,224

Smallpox

Number of persons vaccinated (or revaccinated) during the year ended December 31st, 1964.

Age at date of Vaccination	Number vaccinated	Number re-vaccinated
0-3 months	101	4
3-6 months	266	39
6-9 months	78	6
9-12 months	98	27
1 year	438	44
2-4 years	111	22
5-14 years	56	133
15 or over	63	195
Total	1,211	470

IMMUNISATION FIGURES FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1st, to DECEMBER 31st, 1964

Clinic	Sessions	No. of children who completed a course of Immunisation against:-	Diphtheria	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Tetanus	Diphtheria and Tetanus	Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Polio myelitis	No. of children who received a reinforcing infection against:-	Diphtheria	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Tetanus	Diphtheria and Tetanus	Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Polio myelitis	Totals
Grovelands	16	-	-	-	-	24	12	65	111	-	22	1	-	-	49	63	72	419
Whitley	26	-	-	-	-	29	10	163	207	-	47	5	-	-	29	194	181	865
Tilchurst	27	-	-	-	-	40	4	105	146	-	29	-	-	-	74	175	151	724
Caversham (Queen's Rd.)	13	-	-	-	-	20	2	50	57	-	21	1	-	-	31	74	90	348
School (Queen's Rd.)	27	-	-	-	-	12	14	181	203	-	55	7	-	-	64	194	203	933
Southcote	22	-	-	-	-	17	3	118	144	-	42	-	-	-	82	114	108	628
Emmer Green	14	-	-	-	-	20	-	47	61	-	39	-	-	-	16	60	53	297
Norcot	10	-	-	-	-	6	-	51	70	-	17	-	-	-	22	49	50	265
Carried out by Private Practitioners	-	-	-	-	-	39	3	1216	1177	-	2	-	-	9	135	363	480	3424
Totals	-	-	-	3	-	207	48	1996	2176	-	274	14	-	9	502	1286	1388	7903

Vaccination Figures for Period January 1st to December 31st, 1964

Vaccination against Smallpox

Clinic	Sessions	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15 or over	Totals
Grovelands . . .	16	7	32	9	6	23	13	16	2	108 (44)
Whitley . . .	26	44	58	17	10	24	11	16	4	184 (38)
Tilehurst . . .	27	—	—	—	31	48	7	45	1	132 (45)
Caversham (Queen's Rd.) .	13	6	25	9	3	10	5	13	1	72 (14)
School (Queen's Rd.) .	27	32	91	15	15	22	11	4	143	333 (160)
Southcote . . .	22	7	82	8	19	38	7	28	3	192 (75)
Emmer Green . . .	14	1	1	—	1	27	3	9	5	47 (17)
Norcot . . .	10	—	—	—	4	20	4	12	—	40 (10)
Carried out by Private Practitioners .	—	8	16	26	36	270	72	46	99	573 (67)
TOTALS . . .	—	105	305	84	125	482	133	189	258	1,681 (470)

Figures in parentheses denote re-vaccination

SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service was inaugurated in July 1948, and is under the operational control of the Transport Manager and Engineer. I am grateful to him and his staff for the manner in which they have carried out their task.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out since 1949 for Borough and non-Borough duties:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1949 . .	8,797	10,098	88,884
1954 . .	21,361	24,453	159,361
1958 . .	25,526	31,883	164,949
1962 . .	39,107	42,519	185,582
1963 . .	40,828	44,328	195,556
1964 . .	40,118	43,453	196,049

A summary of work carried out during 1964 is tabulated below:—

	CALLS		PATIENTS		MILES	
	①	②	①	②	①	②
Emergency (999 Calls) ...	2,184	1,766	2,129	1,671	11,539	7,245
Urgent and Non-urgent Calls ...	37,746	32,407	41,207	35,145	181,117	119,192
Flying Squad Duties	118	—	117	—	3,393	—
Stretcher Cases	14,784	10,681	16,269	11,509	113,642	59,831
Sitting/Walking Cases	25,334	23,492	27,184	25,307	82,407	66,606

① *Total All Areas*

② *Non-Rechargeable Cases only*

The above figures do not include the considerable number of duties which are received by the Ambulance Service and passed either to the Hospital Car Service or adjacent Ambulance Services. In the majority of these duties, the mileage is charged directly to the Authority financially responsible for the duty and records of this work are not recorded in any of our tabulations.

Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

	PATIENTS		MILEAGE			MILES PER PATIENT		
	1963	1964	1962	1963	1964	1962	1963	1964
AMBULANCE SERVICE								
12,519	44,328	43,453	185,582	195,556	196,049	4.36	4.40	4.51
HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE								
7,408	7,870	9,481	68,485	65,113	75,250	9.24	8.27	7.93
19,927	52,198	52,934	254,067	260,669	271,299	5.09	4.99	5.12

Ambulance Fleet and Personnel

At December 31st, 1964, the fleet comprised 13 dual-purpose ambulances, 10 of which are fitted with Dunlop Pneuride pneumatic suspension. The two latest replacement ambulances put into service during 1964 have a new design chassis, planned specifically for ambulance use.

There are 5 Ambulance Regulators and 28 Ambulance Driver/Attendants to meet all the requirements of the 24 hour service.

Radio Control

Direct communication with ambulances by radio was instituted almost seven years ago and has proved to be an essential ingredient in the maintenance of an efficient service, especially in these days of delays due to traffic congestion.

Accommodation

A new Ambulance Station in Queen's Road is the long-term plan but a temporary building is being erected in Mill Lane to house the Ambulance Control and Rest Rooms, etc.

Service Demands

The number of patients conveyed by the combined Ambulance and Hospital Car Services continues to increase.

The transport demand by the various clinics seems to be developing into a peak requirement on certain days of the month, which makes it impossible to meet all requirements without some delays occurring in both meeting the time of admission and for the return journeys.

Between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. the Ambulance Control office provides call-out facilities for the Borough Midwifery Service. This facility has been in operation since August, 1963 and during 1964 over 3,000 telephone calls were received or made in connection therewith.

Appreciation

Appreciation is expressed to the following:—

The staff of British Railways (Reading) for their utmost co-operation.

The Hospital Car Service for their continued excellent service, often supplied at extremely short notice.

The British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade, for assistance in providing escorts for long journeys.

SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

(A) (a) Tuberculosis (see also Section re Infectious Diseases)

Although without a tuberculosis welfare officer, the arrangements for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients has been continued by the Tuberculosis

(Health) Visitors with some advice and assistance from the Honorary Secretary of the Reading Care Association, a member of the Health Department's staff. The close liaison with the Children's Department, the Housing Department, the Domestic Help Section, the Disablement Resettlement Officers, the Family Caseworkers and Officers of the National Assistance Board has been maintained. The Board have been most helpful and sympathetic in meeting financial and other needs of patients referred to them.

The Council have continued to be responsible for providing among other things—grants of milk, nursing apparatus, convalescent holidays, etc.

The close co-operation between the statutory and non-statutory services and, in particular, with the Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis and Other Diseases of the Chest, has continued very satisfactorily.

(b) The Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest

The Secretary reports as follows:—

This Association has continued to meet not only some general, but specific needs of patients suffering from tuberculosis and other chest complaints, and their families.

Some of the general needs comprise:—

Fuel Scheme. Well over a hundred patients benefited from this scheme. By far the greater number received deliveries of coal, while others using oil stoves, coke, gas and electric fires, also received assistance.

Gardening Scheme. The Committee are again indebted to Messrs. Sutton & Sons, Limited for supplying free of charge a consignment of vegetable seeds for the gardens belonging to patients. It is a gift greatly appreciated by the recipients.

Once again the Committee engaged a very competent gardener to maintain gardens of housebound and hospital patients, and in planting seeds for bedfast patients. The whole cost of the gardener's services was borne by the Committee. This is one of the few Care Committees in the country providing this type of service.

Library Scheme. Through the Saint John and British Red Cross Society the Association have continued to issue books to homebound patients. During the year steps were taken to improve "notifications" so that the scheme could be extended to benefit a greater number of patients.

Clothing Scheme. Arrangements were made with a voluntary organisation for the supply of second-hand clothing. The Association paying for cleaning/laundry before issue to patients.

Christmas Extras. The number of patients receiving food vouchers at a cost of 25s. each, was eighty-three. The gratitude of the patients receiving these "extras" at Christmastide was ably expressed in the large number of "thank-you" letters which were received by the Committee.

Christmas gifts for children. The scheme which came into operation two years ago was continued. This was to provide for children in the upper age group, of patients receiving home or hospital treatment, with vouchers to select their own Christmas gift, while the younger children were presented with toys.

Lodgings for the homeless. Over the years, difficulty has been experienced particularly with the single person occupying board-and-lodging accommodation who, after a period of inpatient treatment, sometimes lengthy, find they have no home to return to. As a result of the steps taken this problem has been minimised.

The requests from patients to meet their individual needs were numerous and varied considerably. Extra nourishment—including milk, bedding, payment of fares for relatives to visit patients in hospital, meat and groceries on economic grounds, occasional payment of rent, holidays for relatives caring for patients, help towards debts accruing through periods of illness, etc.

Administrative costs are small. Expenditure to cover the needs outlined is in the region of £800. To finance the needs the Association relies largely on the efforts of its Christmas Seal Sale Committee. In addition to money raised from the sale of seals, two concerts, a bring-and-buy sale and a series of whist drives also provided funds.

The Association participated in the Mayor's Market, having as its money raising objects a draw and a tombola which together realised a profit of £111.

The Committee with its Officers—Councillor H. Williams (Chairman), Mr. A. W. Crowther (Vice-Chairman), and Mr. R. A. Walker (Honorary Treasurer) have supported its activities, financially and otherwise and have undertaken its work with enthusiasm.

(c) Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Sale

The Seal Sale Organiser reports as follows:—

For the fifteenth successive year the Reading Care Association for Tuberculosis organised a Christmas Seal Sale within the County Borough. The sale was managed by a Committee of twenty members—all volunteers, with Mr. F. Yates, as Chairman, Mr. T. Dowdall and Mr. D. A. B. Horn as Honorary and Assistant Treasurers, and Mr. C. E. House and Mr. V. A. Landor as Seal Sale and Assistant Organisers. The Committee have called upon eleven "Friends of the Committee" for clerical and other assistance.

The Committee express their thanks to everyone who has accepted seals and, in particular all those who subscribed above the normal purchase price. Although the amount raised—£603 was a little lower than in the previous year, it is regarded as encouraging.

(d) B.C.G. Vaccination

During the year 255 vaccinations of contacts were carried out, making a total of 4,444 since 1950.

The vaccination of children aged 13 plus has continued throughout the year in conjunction with the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, freeze-dried vaccine being used. The number of children involved is:—

Number skin tested	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,262
Number found negative	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,092
Number vaccinated	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,092

(B) Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus

There is continually increasing demand for home nursing equipment of all types and our scheme has worked very well in conjunction with the District Nursing Service and the care of handicapped persons in their own homes. There has been an increase in the amount of more sophisticated equipment for home nursing, such as pneumatic hoists, ripple beds, etc., and this equipment is much appreciated by the patient and by those who have to nurse him.

(C) Provision of Convalescent Holidays

During the year 47 patients, including 44 adults and 3 children, were sent away for a period of convalescence under the Council's scheme. Also, 2 adults and 3 children were assisted with travelling expenses only. In addition to the Council's scheme and as a result of donations from charitable sources and patients themselves assisting in paying, arrangements were made for 17 adults and 11 children also to go away—some as patients and others as members of family accompanying patients.

(D) Health Education (see also section re Health Visiting, report of Chief Public Health Inspector, and report of School Medical Officer).

The annual Welcome to Citizenship Exhibition again gave the department the opportunity to display the various aspects of the work carried out. This is a very valuable Exhibition since it brings to the attention of the rising generation the facilities which are available to them.

(E) Work of the Family Welfare Officers—Prevention of Break-up of Families. (Circular 27/54).

The Section has been fully staffed since June this year when Mrs. Hollingum was appointed.

The case load has remained fairly steady. The total number of cases which have required more than two visits is 87 this year, as compared with 89 cases in 1963. This figure does not include the families visited by the voluntary caseworkers of the Family Aid Group, or those families with a general accommodation problem. It does include those homeless families who are eventually rehoused in intermediate accommodation. These 87 families may be classified as follows:—

- (a) 14 problem families with whom casework is undertaken on a long term basis. This is the same number as last year.
- (b) 62 council tenants in rent arrears who have been visited for short or long periods, as compared with 54 last year. 7 of these families are included in (a) above, whilst another 4 families are in intermediate accommodation and are included in (d) below.
- (c) 6 families who needed help with financial problems, 5 of whom had house mortgages.
- (d) 16 families in intermediate accommodation.

These 87 families have a total of 293 children, 40% of whom are under school age.

Accommodation problems

There has been only a small increase in the total number of calls to the office, and in fact the number of new enquiries is fewer than last year. The apparently large increase in the number of enquiries from homeless families is somewhat misleading. 6 of these 78 calls were made by one family over a period of two months.

Total Calls	New	Repeats	Reason for call			
			General Acc.	Threatened Eviction	Homeless	Miscellaneous and P.F.'s
860 (822)	179 (202)	681 (620)	228 (265)	78 (88)	78 (28)	476 (441)

The 1963 figures are shown in brackets underneath

Homeless Families

During 1964, 17 mothers with 31 children were admitted to Woodlands. The number of mothers is almost the same as last year, but fewer children have been admitted at any one time, so that the total number of children is reduced by one third. This has been a deliberate policy to avoid the risk of epidemics, which caused some anxiety last year.

Two families had been evicted from council houses for various reasons; the remaining families came from private accommodation. Two of these have been rehoused in Intermediate Accommodation; one has been rehoused by the Housing Department; 10 families have found their own accommodation; 4 families remain in Woodlands.

Intermediate Accommodation

By the end of the year there were 31 houses or flats available for intermediate accommodation. Three families were rehoused from Woodlands; two families were rehoused on account of severe overcrowding giving rise to social problems; one family with two generations living together were allowed two units of accommodation; one family was rehoused as the result of a fire.

Reading Family Aid Group

The Group consists of the Chairman, Mrs. Salzmann, the Treasurer and Secretary, Mrs. Jewell, four voluntary Caseworkers, Mrs. Ditchburn, Mrs. Parmenter, Mrs. Stedman and Mrs. Chapman and two Health Department Family Caseworkers, Mrs. Dorward and Mrs. Hollingum. Close co-operation is maintained with the Children's Department, the Education Department, the National Assistance Board, the N.S.P.C.C. and the Health Visitors, who each send a representative to the monthly case conference.

As always, the primary aim of the Group is to prevent the break-up of families and with this end in view, two new activities were promoted in 1964.

During April and May a short session of five weekly classes was held at the Home Making Centre in Katesgrove Lane, and ten mothers were invited to attend. They cooked simple dishes, discussed housekeeping budgets and the general running of their homes. At the mothers' request the classes started again in October for a further six weeks, and again after Christmas. The last session was less successful than the other two on account of illness in the families.

It was a co-operative effort. The Education Department provided the premises and a generous quota of instructors, who conducted the classes in an informal and friendly way and thus gained the confidence of the mothers at an early stage. The

mothers were also permitted to use the creche which is provided every afternoon for the assistance of all mothers who attend the centre. This was invaluable as most of the mothers had toddlers and would have been unable to attend without this facility.

All materials used during the classes were provided in the first session out of Family Aid Group funds. Afterwards, the Children's Department, who had assisted with the original planning and organisation of the classes, took responsibility for payment of these expenses. All the mothers were taken to and from the centre in cars provided entirely by voluntary helpers and organised by Mrs. Lees. Without this help the scheme would have been impossible to work. It is hoped to continue the classes later on this year with a new group of mothers.

During this year also, the Family Aid Group engaged the services of Mrs. Cynthia Brinley, a special home help, to work with a few of the more difficult families, in an endeavour to lead them into a more orderly way of running their homes. Her work quickly proved most effective and after a short trial period, the Children's Department took her, as the Family Service Officer, on to their staff.

At the same time, the normal work of the Group has gone on as before. Only two new cases were referred during the year, and no cases were closed. Twenty-one families with 105 children under 15 are currently visited, seven by the Family Caseworkers, five by the Children's Department and nine by the voluntary members of the Group. Ten families with 59 children normally require only a little supervision, but in times of family crisis, they have sought help from the caseworker known to them. The Group therefore in various ways helps 164 children.

In co-operation with the W.V.S. and other bodies, 21 children were sent away on holiday this summer. Invitations to Christmas parties were received from various churches and other organisations in the town; also gifts of toys which were distributed on Christmas Eve. The Group arranged two coach trips to Hayling Island during the summer holidays. Invitations were confined to boys aged between 10 and 15, and once again three Police Officers generously gave up some of their free time to take charge of the coach, and organise games and swimming. Again this year the Reading B.P. Scout Guild invited ten boys to their Sunday outings during the summer.

The clothing and furniture stores, which are both managed entirely by voluntary workers Mrs. R. Turner and Mrs. M. West, have been extensively used during the year, and there has been a big turnover in both stores. Material help of this kind is not confined to families on the F.A.G. list, but is used to assist any family in genuine need who may be referred by other Departments of the Corporation, or by outside organisations.

About £150 per annum is used for this work and the money comes entirely from voluntary sources. The Family Aid Group would like to thank the following subscribers for their financial help:—

Reading University Rag Committee
 Sunday Cinema Fund
 Mayoress' Ball
 National Council for Women

They are grateful to the numerous other individuals and organisations who have offered material help and support during the year.

SECTION 29—HOME HELP SERVICE

The Service has operated at full stretch during the whole year, not only in helping to keep people out of hospital or Part III accommodation, but also enabling earlier discharge from hospital.

The number of aged, handicapped aged and chronic cases continue to increase. 636 people over 65 years of age receiving visits, live alone. More visits are necessary for many of these people.

Frequent visits by the Supervisors have meant that the unexpressed needs of many old folk are discovered, and arrangements can be made to relieve the situation by reference to such bodies as the National Assistance Board, Welfare Officer for the handicapped, also the Nursing aids Section.

After the very severe winter we experienced, when many old folk were left without fuel, it was decided to keep a small stock of coal, to enable old folk who live in accommodation too small to store fuel, to be supplied (in an emergency) if the weather made it impossible for their usual deliveries to be made.

Home Helps, in addition to the routine cleaning, cooking and shopping, are attending to the more personal problems of washing hair, attending to feet, and helping the patient to bath.

In addition to the Meals on Wheels Service, Home Helps continue to average about 750 meals each week.

We are still experiencing great difficulty in recruiting Home Helps. We are having to compete with many firms in Reading who are offering part-time work. Failure to increase the Home Help staff has meant a curtailment, at times, of the time allowed to some households.

Home Helps continue to do far more, in their own time, to help the old folk, than they are expected to do. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Home Helps, who, when we have been very pushed for staff, have offered to do extra work.

	Home help to households for persons					Total
	Aged 65 or over on first visit in 1964	Aged under 65 on first visit in 1964			Total	
		Chronic sick and tuberculous	Mentally Disordered	Maternity			Others
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Number of cases	1,338	54	8	355	242	1,997

The number of Domestic Helps employed at the end of the year was as follows:—

Whole-time	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Part-time	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	187
Whole-time equivalent	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	85

In addition there were 2 whole-time and 2 part-time organisers, making a whole time equivalent of 3.5.

Night Attendant Service

During 1964 this service dealt with 127 cases, sending out Attendants on 1,100 nights, an increase of 718 nights on 1963.

Mr. Kenneth Clark, Clerk to the Trustees of the Queen Victoria Fund comments: "The Night Attendant Service is now fairly well known and is working smoothly. Of course, the demand fluctuates considerably, as it always must do. We now have nineteen Attendants, mostly doing one night per week".

SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Work performed		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Number of current cases on last day of period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. .. .	982	1010	997	1006	979	986	998	984	979	1005	996	997
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	6	8	12	6	8	9	9	2	3	8	5	6
Classification of reasons why help was received on last day of period:—													
(a) Old age, infirmity, and chronic sickness	.. .. .	913	938	933	936	918	922	931	923	925	942	940	932
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	.. .. .	64	68	59	59	58	61	61	58	52	57	53	56
(c) Maternity cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. .. .	9	10	16	16	10	11	14	4	4	13	7	14
(d) Miscellaneous	.. .. .	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Source of new applications:—													
(a) Direct application by Doctor	.. .. .	10	22	24	17	12	21	9	10	10	19	13	9
(b) " " Hospital	.. .. .	13	13	13	14	15	8	13	8	14	14	10	8
(c) " " Midwife	.. .. .	47	28	52	51	50	21	42	54	39	33	59	38
(d) " " Householder	.. .. .	18	17	7	6	17	8	12	10	7	19	10	7
(e) " " Welfare Worker	.. .. .	12	17	13	10	14	4	7	10	8	9	17	3
Classification of reasons for help being sought:—													
(a) Old age, infirmity and chronic sickness	.. .. .	40	46	37	28	39	24	26	26	27	40	34	12
(b) Acute sickness and convalescence	.. .. .	13	23	12	13	18	15	11	11	11	16	14	13
(c) Maternity Cases (including miscarriages and discharges from hospital)	.. .. .	47	28	60	57	51	23	46	55	40	38	61	40
(d) Miscellaneous	.. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases where Helps unnecessary		20	16	22	7	19	15	19	13	6	12	16	12
Number of Households receiving help for first time during period:—													
(a) Part-time	.. .. .	60	79	67	40	63	49	47	45	41	64	57	33
(b) Full-time	.. .. .	16	14	21	33	25	18	17	23	13	16	22	17
Number of hours worked by part-time Helps during the period		15255½	16073½	19723	15250½	19460½	15216½	14983	15175½	14634½	15399½	19667½	14297½
Number of part-time Helps employed at last day of period		192	195	187	192	188	184	187	183	185	182	191	187
Number of visits paid by Organisers:—													
(a) New Cases	.. .. .	116	121	94	109	113	70	90	90	80	93	110	79
(b) Re-visits	.. .. .	448	470	419	412	418	332	460	524	339	326	486	389
Number of meals by Home Helps (1 week)		878	859	826	795	721	712	679	675	693	697	724	739

MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1959

The administration of the Mental Health Service has continued as in previous years. One senior Mental Welfare Officer is concerned with the mentally subnormal members of the community, the other two senior Mental Welfare Officers are responsible for a geographical half of the Borough, one being aided by one Mental Welfare Officer and the other by two Mental Welfare Officers. They have continued their work as in previous years and have reinforced their links with the local general practitioners, hospital staffs, and other social agencies concerned with people suffering from mental ill health and subnormality.

Case conferences at Fair Mile Hospital and Borocourt Hospital have been continued to the benefit of staff and patients alike.

The levelling off of the numbers of compulsory admissions under the Mental Health Act to psychiatric hospitals has not been carried on this year. The number of admissions has risen from 70 in 1963 to 99 in 1964. It will be interesting in future years to see if this is a chance variation or whether the levels of admissions are going to be fluctuant.

The drop in the figures relating to informal admissions of patients to psychiatric hospitals has not been maintained. Admissions have risen from 253 in 1963 to 300 in 1964, so it appears that the speculation in the report of 1963 as to possible reasons for the apparent trend for the numbers of such informal admissions to drop over the years were not, in fact, valid. It seems that several more years must pass before a stabilized pattern of admissions is likely to emerge.

A number of convalescent mental patients continue to attend the Occupational Therapy Centre for Other Classes of Handicapped Persons, being approximately 10 per cent. of those attending. Their attendances are usually of rather short duration, in the region of two to three months, enabling them to reorientate themselves to regular work habits and community contacts before returning to ordinary employment in open industry and commerce.

Mental Illness

Mr. C. E. House, Senior Mental Welfare Officer, reports:—

The statutory role of the mental welfare officer, important as it is, is not his main function. The main purpose is care in the community of the mentally disordered, generally helping those who have received treatment in hospital and those who may never need to go into hospital but who remain a constant problem in the community.

In securing a seriously disturbed person's compulsory admission to hospital a true statement of the officer's actions and intentions from the beginning is best in the long run. A patient who has been "tricked" into hospital loses confidence in both the hospital and the mental welfare officer, and valuable time is lost while confidence is regained, if ever it is. Experience has shown that quite seriously disturbed people have later remembered the honesty and complete candour of the officer and have placed their complete trust in him when later they have become an after-care case.

Community care is an extremely wide concept which contemplates the seriously disturbed remaining in the community most of the time. It is a question of socio-medical care, with the accent at least as heavily on the social content of the work as on the medical.

One often hears that "mental illness is an illness like any other illness"—the fact is that mental illness is an illness quite **UN**like any other. No purely physical illness of itself causes the complete withdrawal from society which is one of the striking features of some forms of mental illness. The community in general lack insight into this problem and show little willingness to be enlightened. Those who have suffered from mental illness need to reintegrate with society in all ways: they have

jobs to find or return to; homes to re-enter or seek; relationships to renew or to rebuild again. They often need—though do not always readily accept—guidance, support and advice on how best to tackle each of these problems.

Herein lies the work of the mental welfare officer, success or failure can hardly be recorded in figures and statistics.

Mrs. A. J. Tregillus, Senior Mental Welfare Officer, reports:—

During the year Mr. W. C. Lacy left and was replaced by Mr. D. Horn. Miss M. Woods returned from her two years Younghusband course.

The Occupational Therapy Centre continues to be of great help. There are undoubted advantages in mixing the psychiatric patients with the physically handicapped.

Rather fewer recuperative and convalescent holidays have been arranged this year, but of those patients who were sent away all but one benefited considerably. The latter took his miseries with him and spoilt not only his own holiday, but that of his sorely pressed and tired wife who so badly needed a rest.

The usual number of patients have been sent to rehabilitation or training centres. Two patients were summarily discharged from training courses because of their personality problems, or rather because of the fear that they might upset other trainees. The Ministry of Labour is making informal representation that in future similar cases should first be discussed between themselves, the Mental Welfare Officer concerned, and the centre officials.

I have previously reported on a small number of chronic young schizophrenics in our area. This group remains and despite all efforts there is no evidence of any improvement in their mental health. In fact their condition might be said to be deteriorating as their social problems grow.

We have had a number of admissions of elderly persons who have been leading solitary lives in rented houses. We are now following up these cases very closely, and are asking for permission from the Court of Protection to relinquish the tenancies as soon as the doctor says he considers the patients will never again be able to live on their own. In the past some rented houses have remained unoccupied for far too long.

In the year under review we paid almost the same number of visits to patients discharged from hospital as in 1963. Fewer visits were paid to patients under hospital supervision, more to patients under G.P. supervision only, and more to patients classified under the heading "others". Allowing for the additional help given by Miss Woods during the latter part of the year, I estimate that the number of our visits and our case load generally increased during 1964.

We made application for compulsory admission of 53 patients in 1964 as against 37 in the preceding year, and were involved with 49 other admissions as against 62.

We continue to enjoy a very good relationship with statutory and voluntary bodies in the town, and this year would like to make special mention of the women's section of the Borough Police Force—for their willingness to make enquiries, keep an eye on special problems and accompany us when the need arises.

Employment being what it was in the town in 1964, the D.R.O.'s were able to make several spectacular placings, including some psychiatric cases, but they maintain that schizophrenics are hardest to place because their work output is so often reduced by the medication on which they must remain to keep well. I sit on the Disablement Advisory Committee and have sat on panels for specific cases.

Finally I must pay tribute to the Home Helps who always help even though "We haven't got a single Help to spare". What should we do without them!

The Samaritans of Reading

I am indebted to the Director of The Samaritans of Reading for information

covering the period from July, 1963 to July, 1964.

"Calls have continued to be made at an average rate of 28 per month and the pattern of problems is consistent. Most people who phone follow their phone call up by a personal visit and this is encouraged. Close co-operation is maintained with all the local statutory officials and a good deal of assistance is obtained from these welfare officers and also from the doctors in the area. From many points of view, the friendship we can offer to all who need it is the most valuable part of the work, and gives support and reassurance to those who feel they cannot face up to life as it appears to them at the moment. All clients who need this are provided with a befriender if they so desire.

312 calls were answered. These calls can be classified into 18 broad categories and cover the whole range of problems to which modern civilised man is heir".

Subnormality

Mrs. J. M. Norwood, Senior Mental Welfare Officer, reports:—

There has been no great change in the administration of this section since last year. Many more difficult cases are having to be dealt with in the community, some of whom it is considered should be in hospital. However, due to the delays in the hospital building programme, it is not always possible to get patients into hospital at the optimum time. The waiting list, especially for cot cases, continues to grow. The Medical Superintendents of the hospitals for the subnormal are most helpful in relieving parents by taking in patients for short periods of temporary care when spare beds are available during holiday periods. This has proved to be a very worthwhile and appreciated service. The relationship between the local authority and the hospital service has remained good.

More highgrade patients than ever are working on the open labour market being given the opportunity by employers and accepted as equals by workmates. This seems to indicate that over the years the general public is becoming more tolerant towards those not so fortunate as themselves, and perhaps more knowledgeable on the subject of mental subnormality.

Training Centres

The Training Centres for the mentally subnormal, Wakefield Lodge and The Beeches, continued their work as in previous years, and Newbery Lodge Special Care and Attention Unit for the severely subnormal also continued throughout the year. Again I must extend my grateful thanks to the ladies of the Tilehurst Women's Institute who have given valuable assistance to the Supervisor in the running of this Unit. The help that they have given is invaluable.

The Beeches Senior Training Centre

Mr. Allen, Supervisor, has contributed the following report:—

"At the end of December, 1964 there were 50 Trainees, from 16 years of age upwards, on the register, including 7 from Berkshire County.

The staff consists of 1 Supervisor, 2 Assistant Supervisors (female), 1 part-time Assistant, giving three half-day sessions weekly, and appropriate domestic staff.

Industrial Work: The introduction of "Light Work" this year has proved quite successful; a number of factories have contributed work which has been completed to their satisfaction, e.g. pot scourers, shampoos (wrapping, boxing, etc.) sponges (wrapping and heat sealing), car wallets (assembling etc.).

Practical Training Schemes: Wood (bundling, etc.)—the demand continued to exceed the supply; Christmas Crackers—sales are still rising; General Handwork, Needlework, Basket work, Reseating chairs—orders still exceed production. There is still a steady demand for car cleaning.

Other Activities: Dancing, Physical Training, ball games and Domestic Training.

Outside Work: Demands for hourly work outside the Centre have increased. One trainee commenced full time employment.

Transport: A number of trainees are now using public transport to and from the Centre.

Annual Camp: 27 trainees in the care of four members of the staff went to Dymchurch for one week. During the week parents visited the camp and a good time was had by all.

Outings: On July 8th, 31 trainees accompanied by four members of the staff attended the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, and on September 25th, 34 trainees and four members of the staff went to Hayling Island for the day.

Open Day and Sale of Work: This was held at The Beeches. Alderman Allum, Chairman of the Health Committee, kindly opened the proceedings to a good attendance of parents and friends.

Christmas Party: 44 trainees attended the Christmas Party which was held at St. John's Hall, Fatherson Road".

Wakefield Lodge Junior Training Centre

Mrs. English, Supervisor, reports:—

"At the end of December, 1964, there were 55 children on the register including 10 from Berkshire County. During the year there were 15 new admissions, while 4 children left (two to permanent hospital care and two were transferred to The Beeches), showing an increase of 11.

The staff consists of 1 Supervisor, 6 assistants, 1 nursery assistant, and appropriate domestic staff. Miss M. Roberts completed her training at the National Association for Mental Health Teacher Training Course in London and returned to Wakefield Lodge in July, having gained her Diploma.

The transport arrangements continued as in previous years.

The services of the School Medical Service have continued for cleanliness inspections, dental treatment and speech therapy.

Social Activities: An Open Day was held on June 17th when parents were invited to visit children in their classrooms. Sports Day was held on July 25th which was well attended by parents and friends. A visit to Chessington Zoo on July 1st was sponsored by the Parents' Association. A Harvest Festival Service was held at Wakefield Lodge, the Reverend E. Richards officiating. All parents were invited and the gifts brought by the children were handed to twelve aged parishioners. A Christmas Party was held at Wakefield Lodge on Wednesday, December 16th. Alderman A. J. Burrows attended. Mr. Allen very kindly gave a film show for the children and this was followed by a tea party and presents given by Father Christmas—a pupil of Leighton Park School.

Parents Association: The Beeches, Wakefield Lodge and Newbery Lodge Parents' Association hold Committee meetings once a month, parents' social evenings being arranged periodically throughout the year. Parents are able to bring their children who are entertained independently. The funds raised by the Association are spent on the Centre on extra equipment and outings for the children.

Training Routine: Nursery Group: The routine in this group is one of social training and learning through play, combined with group activity to music, speech development (informal and by group co-operation), music (singing and percussion), painting and simple sewing on rug canvas. Junior Group: The play routine is continued in the junior groups combined with physical activity (dancing), speech lessons with finger play, singing and percussion, use of basic Sense Training apparatus, pre 3R work handcraft. Senior Group: Group (i)—ages 10-14 years. A class of 11 children chosen for training in 3R work. Other training includes physical education, speech development, dancing, handcraft, music (singing and percussion). Group (ii)—ages 12-15 years. A class of 9 children. The children in this group average a lower I.Q. and, apart from 4 children who continue to receive 3R instruction, are trained to do work of a more practical nature. The routine includes physical education, speech development, handcraft, cookery, woodwork, gardening and music".

Newbery Lodge Care and Attention Unit

Miss Cooke, Supervisor, contributes the following:—

“Newbery Lodge has nine children, six boys and three girls, attending daily. Five of these children are ambulant.

The daily aim at Newbery Lodge is to put the children in contact with a variety of experiences, through play and musical activities, to develop interests, socialisation, self help and general muscular co-ordination. An important part of the children's training take place during meal times, and toilet training is also very necessary to all the children.

During the latter part of the year two of the children have been attending the C.P. Unit at Battle Hospital for physiotherapy.

It is gratifying to note that there has been an all round improvement in the majority of children attending Newbery Lodge".

NUMBER OF READING PATIENTS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL DURING 1964

	Informal Patients			Detained Patients		
	—16	16-64	65+	—16	16-64	65+
Male Admissions to Fair Mile Hospital	—	90	15	—	32	8
Female „ „ „ „ „	—	141	54	—	47	11
Male „ „ Borocourt Hospital	6	4	—	1	2	—
Female „ „ „ „ „	3	4	—	—	2	—
Male „ „ Pewsey Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female „ „ „ „ „	—	—	—	—	—	—
Male „ „ Aylesbury „	1	—	—	—	—	—
Female „ „ „ „ „	—	—	—	—	—	—
Male „ „ Tatchbury Mount, Southampton	—	—	—	—	1	—

Number of Reading Patients discharged from Hospital during 1964

				Informal Patients			Detained Patients		
				—16	16-64	65+	—16	16-64	65+
Male discharges from Fair Mile Hospital				—	107	11	—	3	—
Female	"	"	"	—	164	42	—	19	2
Male	"	"	Borocourt	4	2	—	—	1	—
Female	"	"	"	1	5	—	—	1	—
Male	"	"	Pewsey	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	"	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Male	"	"	Aylesbury	—	—	—	—	—	—
Female	"	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—

Patients Regraded from Informal to Detainees

				Males			Females		
				—16	16-64	65+	—16	16-64	65+
Fair Mile Hospital				—	—	—	—	4	1
Borocourt Hospital				—	—	—	—	—	—

Suicides

Twenty people successfully committed suicide in Reading in 1964.

Number of Suicides in Reading during the years 1960-1964

Age	—20		20/30		30/40		40/50		50/60		60/70		70/80		80/90		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1960	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	4	3
1961	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	2	4	—	2	1	1	—	10	5
1962	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	3	2	—	—	4	5
1963	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	3	1	1	—	1	3	9	5
1964	1	—	1	1	2	1	2	3	—	3	1	3	—	1	—	1	7	13

Number of patients under Local Health Authority Care at 31.12.64

	Mentally Ill						Psychopathic						Subnormal						Severely Subnormal						Totals						Grand Total	
	Under 16			16 and over			Under 16			16 and over			Under 16			16 and over			Under 16			16 and over			Under 16			16 and over				
	M	F	M	M	F	F	M	F	M	M	F	F	M	F	M	M	F	F	M	F	M	M	F	F	M	F	M	M	F	F		
(a) Total number	2	—	69	111	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	514	
(b) Attending day training centre (*O/T Centre for phys'c'y handic'd) Awaiting entry thereto	—	—	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	104	
(c) Resident in residential training centre Awaiting residence therein	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
(d) Receiving home training (*O/T) Awaiting home training	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
(e) Resident in L.A. home/hostel Awaiting residence in L.A. h./h. Resident at L.A. expense in other residential homes/hostels Resident at L.A. expense by boarding out in private household (subsidised)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
(f) Receiving home visits and not included under (b) to (e)	2	—	63	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	405

NUMBER OF PATIENTS REFERRED TO L.H.A. DURING YEAR ENDED 31.12.64

Referred by	Mentally Ill				Psychopathic				Subnormal				Severely S/Norm.				Totals				Grand Total
	Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
(a) General Practitioners			34	60															34	60	94
(b) Hospitals, on discharge from in-patient treatment			43	76																	130
(c) Hospitals, after or during out-patient or day treatment			15	28																	49
(d) Local education authorities				1																	32
(e) Police and courts			24	15																	40
(f) Other sources		2	33	77																	139
Total	2	149	257																16	19	484

Number of Patients awaiting entry to Hospital, or admitted for temporary residential care during 1964

	Mentally Ill				Psychopathic				Subnormal				Severely S/Norm.				Totals				Grand Total
	Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		Under 16		16 and over		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
1. Number of patients in L.H.A. area on waiting list for admission to hospital at 31.12.64																					
(a) In urgent need of hospital care .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	1	8	1	—	10
(b) Not in urgent need of hospital care	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	—	3	10	13
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	2	11	8	1	3	23
2. Number of admissions for temporary residential care (e.g. to relieve the family)																					
(a) To N.H.S. hospitals	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	5	3	1	9
(b) To L.A. residential accommodation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Elsewhere	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	2	4
Total	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	5	5	3	13

Totals

Table of Immunisation State of Notified Cases of Whooping Cough

	No. Notified	Not Im- munised	Immunised				Part Immunised	
			Complete Course (3 injections + booster)		3 injections		1 injection only	
			L.H.A.	G.P.	L.H.A.	G.P.	L.H.A.	G.P.
Under 6 months	5	5						
6 months and under 1 year	6	5				1		
1 year and under 3	16	10				5	1	
3 years and under 5	10	6				3	1	
5 years and under 10	18	8	1	3	1	4	1	
10 years and over	7	5	2					
Totals	62	39	3	3	1	13	3	

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

For the sixteenth year in succession there has been no case of diphtheria in the Borough.

Scarlet Fever

20 cases occurred during 1964 and again, as in 1963, nearly half the cases occurred in the 5-10 year old age group.

Whooping Cough

During the year 64 cases of whooping cough were notified, two of which had been notified in previous years and were subsequently removed from the Registrar General's figures. There were two other cases in this group which had been previously notified.

The table on page 68 shows the break-down of these figures.

Of the 62, 39 had had no immunisation against whooping cough. Completed immunisation records were held for 20, 4 having been immunised by Local Authority staff and 16 by general practitioners. 3 children had had partial immunisation, i.e. had not completed a full course.

Measles

1964 was a lull year for measles there being 319 cases as opposed to 1,460 in 1963.

Poliomyelitis

For the fifth year in succession no case of poliomyelitis has been notified in the Borough.

Food Poisoning

Two cases of food poisoning were notified and investigated during the year. In neither case was it possible to demonstrate the cause of the food poisoning.

Sporadic infections with salmonellae occurred throughout the year. All cases investigated occurred in only one individual in any family.

Tuberculosis

My thanks are again due to Dr. Karlsh, the Consultant Chest Physician, for the great help he has rendered the department in connection with tuberculosis and diseases of the chest. I am indebted to him for most of the information which appears in the following pages.

TABLE I

Year	Number of Cases notified		Notification Rate per 100,000 of population		Number of deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population		Population
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1928-37 Average	117	22	—	—	76	15	0.76	0.15	—
1938	91	31	90.63	30.87	58	6	0.58	0.05	100,400
1939	95	40	94.43	39.76	52	12	0.50	0.10	100,600
1940	117	30	102.09	26.18	74	18	0.66	0.16	114,600
1941	137	50	109.77	40.06	68	16	0.54	0.13	124,800
1942	186	40	157.89	33.95	60	10	0.51	0.08	117,800
1943	185	30	163.71	26.54	57	13	0.51	0.11	113,000
1944	135	29	121.25	26.04	55	14	0.49	0.13	111,340
1945	119	16	109.34	14.69	60	12	0.55	0.11	108,830
1946	152	25	135.51	22.49	73	11	0.65	0.09	111,340
1947	168	27	148.72	23.90	70	6	0.62	0.05	112,960
1948	132	24	115.28	20.92	50	12	0.43	0.10	114,500
1949	130	9	112.65	7.80	35	6	0.30	0.05	115,500
1950	143	10	123.52	8.64	39	3	0.34	0.03	115,700
1951	115	3	99.91	2.61	34	—	0.29	0.00	115,100
1952	128	12	110.54	10.36	22	2	0.19	0.02	115,800
1953	96	26	81.56	22.09	20	4	0.17	0.03	117,700
1954	85	5	71.85	4.22	6	2	0.05	0.02	118,300
1955	131	7	110.92	5.92	9	1	0.07	0.01	118,100
1956	109	11	92.45	9.33	9	1	0.07	0.01	117,900
1957	112	15	94.83	12.70	6	1	0.05	0.01	118,100
1958	107	8	90.75	6.79	8	—	0.07	—	117,900
1959	73	6	61.76	5.08	7	1	0.06	0.01	118,200
1960	68	7	57.57	5.93	7	—	0.06	—	118,110
1961	77	3	63.62	2.48	4	—	0.03	—	121,040
1962	97	6	79.89	4.94	7	1	0.06	0.01	121,420
1963	43	6	35.41	4.94	9	1	0.07	0.01	121,450
1964	43	1	34.87	0.81	4	—	0.03	—	123,310

TABLE II

Source and Type of Notified and Observation (not Notified) Cases of Tuberculosis first seen in 1964

	Mass Radiography	Contact	School Health Service	Odelca Clinic	Direct Consultation	Hospitals	Other Sources	Totals	Transfers from other areas
Respiratory Tuberculosis:									
<i>Primary Tuberculosis:</i>									
Positive	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Negative	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	7	1
Apparently healed	1	-	2	11	-	-	1	15	2
Tuberculin Conversion in Juveniles:	-	6	39	2	-	-	-	47	-
<i>Tub. Pleural Effusion:</i>									
Positive	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	4	-
Negative	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i>									
Positive	2	1	-	9	5	2	2	21	20
Negative	8	2	-	3	-	2	1	16	9
P.T. Arrested	8	2	1	28	5	5	4	53	4
Observation	4	-	-	1	1	-	1	7	1
Total Respiratory Tuberculosis:	23	19	42	57	12	11	9	173	39
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis: ...	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2
Total Tuberculosis Cases:	23	19	42	57	12	13	9	175	41

It will be seen from the above table that 175 new cases, including observation cases, were diagnosed in Reading during the year, excluding 41 transferred from other areas.

The number of newly notified cases has continued at the very low level of 43 and great credit is due to all those concerned with the work in the Borough directed to reducing the number of tuberculosis cases.

Contacts and B.C.G. Vaccination

569 new contacts were examined, resulting in 9 new notifications: 254 contacts were B.C.G. vaccinated, making a total of 4,438 since 1950.

Discharges from the Tuberculosis Register

Notified cases only: Recovered	21
Died (all causes)	16
Transferred	17
Other	27
	—
Total	81
	—

The Clinic Register of Notified Cases of Tuberculosis

Under supervision 1.1.64	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,130
Admitted during year	.	.	.	.	.	.	71
Discharged, died, etc.	.	.	.	.	.	.	81
Remaining under supervision on 31.12.64	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,120

Diseases other than Tuberculosis

TABLE III

Diagnosis of Non-Tuberculous Cases
first seen in 1964

Asthma	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Chronic bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Pneumonias	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Acute respiratory infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Bronchial carcinoma	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Secondary lung tumours	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Pleurisy (non-tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Spontaneous pneumothorax	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sarcoidosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Cardiac disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Pulmonary fibrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Erythema nodosum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rheumatoid arthritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rib fractures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pulmonary infarct	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other lung conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
No organic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Diagnosis not completed by 31.12.64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total									788

The trend of previous years has been maintained; of 1,000 new diagnoses made during the year, 80% were of non-tuberculous conditions.

32 new cases of sarcoidosis were seen, compared with 20 in 1963. There is no good evidence of any increase in the incidence of sarcoidosis; some of these patients are referred to us from outside the area for Kveim tests.

151 new cases of chronic bronchitis were seen compared with 264 in the previous year. The numbers of these cases fluctuate from year to year and the 1963 number was probably inflated by extra patients attracted to the clinic by the drug trial which was completed in the Spring of 1964.

Research

We have continued with our principal lines of research:

- (1) Sarcoidosis: 132 cases have now been studied in the last 12 years and the Kveim testing programme has been carried on in conjunction with Dr. L. E. Stiltzbach in New York. The results of the first 100 Kveim tests in sarcoidosis are as follows:—55 positive, 10 equivocal and 35 negative.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

I am indebted to Mr. H. Archer, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Chief Engineer of the Thames Valley Water Board for the following information:—

The Borough of Reading continues to be supplied with water derived from the River Kennet and from wells and boreholes at Pangbourne, and throughout the year has had ample supplies of water of satisfactory quality.

The well supply, clear and bright in appearance and of a high standard of purity, is given only precautionary chlorination in the way of treatment.

The river source, in contrast, is greatly affected by rainfall and seasonal conditions, and requires carefully controlled filtration, followed by super-chlorination and partial dechlorination to yield a pure and wholesome final water.

The chemical and bacteriological examination of water supplied within the statutory area was continued during the year in the Board's Laboratory.

Samples were collected at regular intervals from the raw water sources, from the treatment works, and from the distribution system.

The numbers of samples from each point, together with typical analysis, are given below:—

<i>Sample Point</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Sample Point</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
River Kennet, Raw Water .	12	Bath Road Reservoir . .	258
Unchlorinated Filtrates .	53	Emmer Green Reservoir .	6
Fobney, Final Water . .	53	Emmer Green Tower . .	3
Southcote, Final Water .	24	Tilehurst Reservoir . .	3
Pangbourne, Raw Water .	26	Tilehurst Tower . . .	2
Pangbourne, Final Water .	30	Distribution System . .	19
		(Reading Area)	
	<hr/> 198		<hr/> 291
Total .	<hr/> 489		

In all, therefore, 489 samples were taken from the area during the year, with frequent sampling of river derived water leaving Bath Road Reservoir.

In spite of the exceptionally dry weather conditions prevailing for a large part of the year, the yield from these sources has continued to provide a surplus which has been used to assist in meeting the demand in districts around the perimeter of the Reading area, and in consequence, it is no longer possible to assess the quantity of water supplied solely in the area of the former Reading Corporation Water Undertaking.

A new 12 in. diameter water main is now being laid from Fobney pumping station to Basingstoke Road and when completed, this will improve supplies to the southern area of Reading where increasing development is now causing difficulties in meeting the demand for water.

The number of houses in the Borough (together with other premises having domestic occupation) supplied with water by the Board increased by 266 to 37,651

during the year ended March 31st, 1964. The supply to two of these properties was by means of standpipes, and my records show that there are 13 houses within the Borough supplied from wells and taking no supply from the Board's mains.

The average daily consumption per head of population throughout the whole of the Board's area in the year ended March 31st, 1964, was 42.44 gallons for domestic and 14.26 gallons for non-domestic use, a total average of 56.7 gallons per head.

RIVER KENNET SOURCE

(Results expressed in parts per million where appropriate)

	Raw Water				Final Water
Appearance	Fairly clear, with little colour and suspended matter				Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Filtered: 7				Less than 5
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	13	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
pH.	8.0	...	...	...	7.5
Chlorides (Cl)	16.0	...	...	...	16.5
Hardness as CaCO ₃ Total	250	...	...	...	245
„ Carbonate (Temporary)	210	...	...	...	210
„ Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	40	...	...	...	35
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.055	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.145	...	...	...	0.055
Nitrite Nitrogen (N)	Approx. 0.01	...	...	...	Absent
Nitrate Nitrogen (N)	3.1	...	...	...	3.2
Iron	0.15	...	...	...	0.01
Other Metals	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	Trace	...	...	...	5
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)	290	...	...	...	290
Alkalinity CaCO ₃	210	...	...	...	210
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 27°C)	1.50	...	...	...	0.60
Residual Chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	0.4 (at work)
Natural Fluoride ... ..	—	...	...	...	Approx. 0.1
Bacteriological Results—					
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in:—					
1 day at 37°C	4000	...	...	...	18
3 days at 22°C	15000	...	...	...	22
Presumptive Coliform Reaction—					
Present in	0.01 mls.	...	...	...	—
Absent from	0.001 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	5000	...	...	...	0
Bact. Coli (Type I)—					
Present in	0.1 mls.	...	...	...	—
Absent from	0.01 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.
Probable No. per 100 mls.	350	...	...	...	0

PANGBOURNE WELLS AND BOREHOLES SOURCE

	Raw Water				Final Water
Appearance	Clear and bright	...	...	...	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Nil	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	Nil	...	...	...	Faint, chlorinous
pH.	7.0	...	...	...	7.0
Chloride	13.2	...	...	...	13.5
Hardness as CaCO ₃ Total	290	...	...	...	290
„ Carbonate (Temporary)	250	...	...	...	250
„ Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	40	...	...	...	40
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.005	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.005	...	...	...	0.005
Nitrite Nitrogen (N)	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Nitrate Nitrogen (N)	5.3	...	...	...	5.3
Iron	0.01	...	...	...	0.01
Other Metals	Absent	...	...	...	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide	36	...	...	...	36
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)	350	...	...	...	350
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	250	...	...	...	250
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 27°C)	0.05	...	...	...	0.05
Residual Chlorine ... ..	—	...	...	...	0.2 (at works)
Natural Fluoride	Less than 0.1	...	...	...	Less than 0.1
<i>Bacteriological Results—</i>					
No. of colonies developing per ml. on Agar in:—					
1 day at 37°C	0	...	...	...	0
3 days at 22°C	3	...	...	...	1
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction—</i>					
Present in ... ..	—	...	...	...	—
Absent from	100 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.
<i>Bact. Coli (Type I)—</i>					
Present in ... ..	—	...	...	...	—
Absent from	100 mls.	...	...	...	100 mls.

The water is not known to have plumbo solvent action and no tests for lead were carried out during the year.

There were no unusual instances of contamination during the year.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. J. Green, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows:—

The year was marked by the loss to the Department and to public health, of Dr. E. Hughes, the Medical Officer of Health. During my close contact with him for over eleven years, I was ever aware of his intense interest in and concern for, the future environmental health of the town and its citizens.

Dr. Hughes' association with public health inspection extended over very many years—to the days when much of our work related to inadequate sanitation and grossly insanitary housing conditions. Despite the widening health horizon in post-war years, environmental health work remained of basic importance to him, particularly as associated with house and home which he considered to be the foundation for a family's normal healthy living, and indeed the basis for a thriving community.

He was fiercely opposed to the overcrowding and exploitation experienced in the early days of housing multi-occupation brought on by the acute housing shortage and unyielding in the application of overcrowding and amenity standards evolved for this type of accommodation, and which ultimately proved acceptable to most landlords and tenants.

In deploring Dr. Hughes' untimely death, I appreciate this opportunity of paying tribute to his unfailing support for every worth-while venture proposed or undertaken by the public health inspectors—his advice and counsel was ever available to those who sought it.

So far as the general work of the department was concerned, the number of houses dealt with by way of clearance this year was quite small—8 houses were included in a clearance area, 5 houses were represented individually, as unfit, and 2 local authority owned houses were certified unfit—in all, a total of only 15 houses.

The main reasons for this were the shortage of suitable alternative accommodation, the considerable number of families still to be rehoused as a result of past clearance and individual action, and the need to prepare for the future rehousing of families from the extensive schemes of clearance and redevelopment which are likely to be put into effect during the next few years. In this connection, towards the end of the year, between 150 and 200 properties in the Chatham Street area were inspected and prepared for representation in clearance areas early in 1965.

One or two small areas were surveyed during the year and a limited survey was carried out in a fair sized section of the Orts Road area. As anticipated, quite a number of unfit houses were discovered, apart from those already included in the current slum clearance programme.

Some further progress was made in achieving improvements to the houses in the two areas previously selected as informal improvement areas and following the introduction of the Housing Act, 1964, one of the areas was formally declared.

There is still a great deal of survey work to be done in respect of future clearance and improvement area proposals, before it will be possible to produce a really comprehensive picture of the housing conditions in the town. It is also desirable to have more information on the degree of multi-occupation in the town although this particular problem may have to be met by implementing the powers of registration provided recently in the Housing Acts.

Atmospheric pollution work was handicapped during the year, particularly on the industrial side, by the resignation of the Senior Public Health Inspector (Smoke Abatement) and failure to recruit a successor. Nevertheless, limited progress was achieved in the adaptation of fireplaces in premises affected by the Reading No. 9 (Southcote) Smoke Control Area which comes into operation on September 1st, 1965.

The decision to delay the coming into operation of Area No. 9 by twelve months was opportune as the smoke control provisions were further amended during the year by the Housing Act, 1964. Area No. 10 has been approved in principle and it is hoped to bring this forward for confirmation during the ensuing year.

A great deal of work was done under the provisions of Section 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, in the assessment of heights of chimneys, plans of which were submitted to the Borough Surveyor for byelaw approval. There was continued liaison between the Department and the Geography Department, Reading University, on the question of pollution records and the subject in general.

A fair level of inspection of the food establishments in the town was maintained during the year. There is, however, the need for more interest in and knowledge of, the principles of food hygiene on the part of some food trade employers and their staffs. The hygienic construction of food premises, the provision of essential amenities like wash basins, hot and cold water, refrigeration and indeed the cultivation of hygienic practice in the handling of food, should now be taken for granted. Whilst progress has been made, we are still far short of the ideal, and I have no reason to believe that the predisposing conditions which contributed to the spread of typhoid in Aberdeen, are completely absent in Reading. We should take note of the events which happened there and do all we can to create a situation which will eliminate, or at least minimise the consequences should a similar incident arise here.

The staff position was reasonably maintained during the year although one Student Public Health Inspector who was with the Department a little over a year, left to take up other work, and the Senior Public Health Inspector (Smoke Abatement) obtained another appointment. The response for studentships is very poor and steps will have to be taken to remedy this situation since the service now depends upon young men coming forward to qualify in this way. Two Trainee Meat Inspectors were successful in obtaining their diploma after a period of training in the department, and Mr. G. Evans, now appointed a Public Health Inspector, became the first member of the Department to be awarded the new diploma of the Public Health Inspectors' Education Board.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to my deputy, Mr. H. Syrad, the Public Health Inspectors and other staff for their continued support during the year. In conclusion, may I wish the newly-appointed Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. Gatherer, a successful and enduring term of office with the Department.

1. HOUSING

Clearance Areas

The following houses were included in a Clearance Area during 1964:—

17-31 Dover Street—Clearance Area No. 1/64 (Dover Street).

The Compulsory Purchase Order made during 1963 in respect of Clearance Area No. 1/63 (Coley Place) was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

The following 17 houses included in Clearance Areas, were demolished during the year:—

Nos. 35 and 37 Hosier Street	Part of Clearance Area No. 1/60 (Hosier Street) C.P.O. 1960.
Nos. 51 and 53 Hosier Street	Part of Clearance Area No. 3/62 (Hosier Street) C.P.O. 1962.
Nos. 3-15 (consecutive) Rupert Court	Part of Clearance Area No. 8/60 (Rupert Court) C.P.O. 1960.

Individual Unfit Houses

The following houses were represented under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, being unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense:—

15, 17 and 19 Fishers Cottages; 49 School Road, Tilehurst; 16 Waterloo Road. In each case Closing Orders were made.

Nos. 219 and 221 Peppard Road, houses owned by the Local Authority, were certified unfit.

The following 36 houses, previously represented as unfit, were demolished during the year:—

No. 1 Coley Place	Demolition Order 1962
Nos. 2-10 and 16, Coley Street	Certified Unfit, 1958 and 1963
No. 12 Coley Street	Closing Order, 1958
Nos. 1-25 (consecutive) Spring Grove	Certified Unfit, 1961, 1962 and 1963
Nos. 259 and 261 Whitley Wood Road	Certified Unfit, 1963
No. 263 Whitley Wood Road	Closing Order, 1962

The Closing Order made during 1961 in respect of No. 43 Chapel Hill, was revoked, the house having been repaired and made fit by the owner. No. 4 Stanway Cottages and Nos. 98 and 100 Whitley Street were removed from the slum clearance programme, having been voluntarily repaired and made fit by the owners.

Improvement Areas

Further informal approaches were made during the year to the owners of the houses included in the two areas previously surveyed and considered suitable as Improvement Areas.

The following summaries show the past and present position in each of the areas: -

EAST READING AREA

Original Survey 1962/1963

	Owner/ Occupied	Tenanted	Total
Total houses inspected	137	44	181
Houses found to be satisfactory	103	16	119
Houses in need of improvement	34	28	62
Houses improved during 1963	2	—	2
Houses improved during 1964	4	—	4
Houses still in need of improvement	30	26	56

(NOTE: 2 tenanted houses became owner/occupied)

WEST READING AREA

Original Survey 1962/1963

	Owner/ Occupied	Tenanted	Total
Total houses inspected	136	92	228
Houses found to be satisfactory	75	5	80
Houses in need of improvement	61	87	148
Houses improved during 1963	14	—	14
Houses improved during 1964	11	6	17
Houses still in need of improvement	39	78	117

(NOTE: 3 tenanted houses became owner/occupied)

In both areas there is a possibility that some further improvement may take place as in a few cases owners and owner/occupiers have promised action.

The informal work which we have done in these two areas has been successful insofar as it has made a good many owners and owner/occupiers aware of the improvement grants available to them—quite a number knew little or nothing about the subject, and it has stepped up the rate of improvement. However, it seems unlikely that much more progress will be made in these areas by informal action alone, other than that which comes through the passage of time, changes in tenancies or changes from tenancy to owner/occupation.

During the year, the Housing Act, 1964, came into force, conferring powers and duties on local authorities to require the improvement of houses in areas and to compel owners of rented houses to carry out improvement—in areas, or individually elsewhere.

Quite clearly this new legislation, if extensively implemented, will give rise to a considerable amount of work.

Having regard to this, only one of the two areas previously referred to—the East Reading area—was formally declared as an “Improvement Area” at the latter end of the year. It was felt that it would be possible to proceed with this area as some of the preliminary work had already been done and the number of tenanted houses in need of improvement and likely to necessitate formal action, was comparatively small. It will be interesting to see the results we achieve with these compulsory measures. So far as rented property is concerned, the tenants in the area are now in a position to have these improvements more or less for the asking.

Where tenants outside formally declared “Improvement Areas” are unable to persuade their landlords to carry out improvements, they may request the Council to invoke the compulsory powers contained in the Act.

It is anticipated that, when circumstances permit, it will be possible for more areas to be surveyed and programmed for formal declaration at regular intervals.

Houses Let-in-Lodgings

The routine for dealing with houses let-in-lodgings has now been firmly established and is working reasonably satisfactorily. Cases coming to the knowledge of Public Health Inspectors on routine inspection or by way of complaint, are first referred to the Borough Surveyor and Planning Officer so as to ensure that the development, i.e., the change from single to multi-occupation, is in conformity with

the Planning Acts and is agreed by the Planning Committee. The Fire Authority is notified to deal with means of escape in case of fire, and the premises are also dealt with by the Public Health Inspectors in accordance with the provisions of the Housing Acts.

It has been our aim to secure separate living and sleeping accommodation and all domestic facilities for each family as far as possible, and it is pleasing to report that further progress was made in this direction. The arrangements in some 30 houses in multiple occupation have been amended so as to provide living units approaching "self-contained flat" standards.

Our approach to overcrowding in houses in multiple occupation is to assess lettings comprising two or more rooms in accordance with the standards contained in the 6th Schedule of the Housing Act, 1957, but modified to suit the usage of the rooms—i.e., "Nil" in the case of kitchens, "Nil" in the case of living rooms, unless these are actually used for sleeping purposes, and an appropriate number in the case of bedrooms. Lettings consisting of only one room are assessed according to the size and usage of the room.

Rooms also containing facilities (i.e., cooker and/or sink)

240 sq. ft. and above	.	.	.	2 persons
100/240 sq. ft.	.	.	.	1 person
Less than 100 sq. ft.	.	.	.	1 person under 10 years of age

Rooms with facilities outside (i.e., common facilities on a landing or in a kitchen)

180 sq. ft. and above	.	.	.	2 persons
90/180 sq. ft.	.	.	.	1 person
Less than 90 sq. ft.	.	.	.	1 person under 10 years of age

Rooms with facilities outside but where, in addition, a communal living room or dining room is available

160 sq. ft. and above	.	.	.	2 persons
80/160 sq. ft.	.	.	.	1 person
80/50 sq. ft.	.	.	.	1 person under 10 years of age

No room under 56 sq. ft. is considered suitable for sleeping purposes.

In all the above cases, rooms which are considered to be unsuitable for sleeping purposes (e.g., unsatisfactory basement rooms and rooms of an unsatisfactory shape or insufficient size) are classified as "Nil".

In certain cases, allowance may be made for the existing occupancy or usage of the room. Normally a bed-sitting room of any size greater than the minimum for 2 persons, is given a permitted number of 2, but if, in the existing tenancy, there are children in the family and provided the room is large enough, the permitted number may be increased to suit the present occupants for a limited time (e.g., by specifying age limits for the children—1 year, 5 years, etc.).

In order to discourage the use of small rooms as bed-sitting rooms, a permitted number of 1 person (under 10 years of age) should be given, as indicated above, but in certain circumstances (e.g., rooms in limited use) it may be necessary to give a permitted number of 1 without qualification.

Where notices are served requiring additional facilities, the standard will normally be as follows:—

- (a) The premises should be provided with adequate natural and artificial lighting, adequate ventilation, and suitable installations for space heating or for the use of space heating appliances.
- (b) At least one sanitary convenience should be provided for every two families or group of five single persons.
- (c) Each family or group of single persons should have an adequate and exclusive supply of water for all domestic purposes and where there are young children in a family, this should include the provision of a constant supply of hot water.
- (d) Suitable personal washing facilities should be conveniently available for the use of all families or persons on the premises.
- (e) Each family or group of single persons should have adequate and exclusive facilities for the storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water.

After 5 years or so of applying these standards, we are now finding that newcomers to this kind of letting accept our general conditions and, in fact, we are finding very few cases of gross overcrowding.

We have information on 407 houses let in multiple occupation, but there must be many more than this. Some 77 houses have been improved by a reduction in the number of occupants or the provision of additional facilities. Some 124 houses which were originally let in lodgings are no longer in multiple occupation, and it is felt that quite a number of these changes have arisen because the persons in control did not wish to provide additional facilities. It remains to be seen whether these premises will be affected by the provisions of the Protection from Eviction Act which comes into force in 1965 and which reduces the landlord's right to evict certain tenants unless he has obtained a Court Order for possession.

Mention was made in the report last year of the desirability of the registration of houses in multiple occupation, if only to give some degree of protection to the occupants themselves against creating conditions which make fire hazards. The Housing Act, 1964, which came into operation during the year, has given power to local authorities to require registration. This matter will no doubt be considered when the time is opportune.

Certificates of Disrepair

During 1964, 10 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, compared with 5 in 1963 and 6 in 1962, of which 5 were granted in respect of all the items specified by the tenant and 5 in respect of some of the defects. Following the local authority's notice of intention to issue Certificates of Disrepair, undertakings were received from landlords in 5 instances, and the Certificates were not therefore issued.

One application was received from the landlord for a Certificate as to the remedying of defects by the landlord. This Certificate was granted.

Repair of Houses

Many of the complaints received by the department were in respect of housing defects. Some 309 dwellinghouses were inspected during the year following complaints. 263 preliminary notices were served and many informal letters sent. It was necessary to serve statutory notices in 92 cases. There were 1885 inspections for the purpose of

supervising works in progress, interviewing owners and builders and generally securing compliance with the notices served. 291 houses were made fit during the year by the owners.

Information re: Land Charges, Improvement Grants, Mortgages, etc.

Information relating to dwellinghouses as regards outstanding notices and possible slum clearance action, was supplied in many cases on official searches of the Land Charges Register—some 3,950 forms were dealt with during the year.

Observations as to future slum clearance proposals and the potential life of dwellinghouses were made in respect of 982 applications for local authority mortgages in addition to which very many verbal enquiries were dealt with.

Similar observations were made in respect of 373 applications for improvement grants, many of which were the subject of visits and inspections.

During the year, 98 properties offered for sale to the local authority were inspected and reported on as to fitness or unfitness, likely clearance action or possible future life, suitability for use as intermediate accommodation and details of necessary repairs.

In addition to these inter-departmental requests for information, numerous enquiries from Solicitors, Property Owners, Agents and members of the general public were dealt with.

Overcrowding

During 1964, many complaints regarding unsatisfactory housing conditions, including overcrowding, were investigated and, where necessary, appropriate recommendations were made to the Housing Department.

A Summary of Housing Repair Work under the Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of Inspections for the purpose of Housing Consolidated Regulations	285
Number of general inspections	1,885
Number of Preliminary Notices served	263
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	236
Number of Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act	92
Number of Statutory Notices (Public Health Act) complied with by owners	65
Number of Houses made fit	291

2. FOOD ADMINISTRATION

The many aspects of food administration, which account for a large proportion of the work of the department, are dealt with under the usual sub-headings, as follows:—

- (a) Slaughterhouses and Inspection of Meat
- (b) Unwholesome Food Condemned
- (c) Milk
- (d) Food Handling
- (e) Sampling, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

(a) *SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT*

There were two licensed slaughtering centres in the town during the year under review—Reading Abattoirs and Venners Bacon Factory. The slaughterhouse connected with a pork factory in Newtown, which discontinued operations last year, was not relicensed and has apparently closed down.

The two slaughterhouses are subject to fairly heavy use and constant attention was required to matters covered by the Slaughterhouses Construction (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughterhouses Construction (Cruelty to Animals) Regulations, during the year. At the Abattoirs, there have been a number of improvements. Emergency slaughter has been provided for by the adaptation of one of the bays. This was necessary to meet the requirements of the German Importation Regulations which now accept Reading Abattoirs as a suitable centre for exportation to that country.

An improved type of pig-dehairer has been installed in the Smalls Slaughter-Hall which will help through-put. An extra boiler has been provided to supply additional steam on the smalls side, and there is a new gas-fired boiler-calorifier to provide hot water and steam on the cattle side. The facilities for watering cattle in the lairages has also been considerably improved. On the preparation side of the premises, a new blast freezer has been installed for freezing boneless beef.

Work finished on the last of the four cooling rooms, all of which have now been internally reconstructed and made capable of refrigerating carcasses down to a temperature of 10°F.

Whilst more refrigeration space is desirable, present capacity is limited by the inability to expand. Present cooling facilities, however, are, of necessity, of a very high standard because of the amount of business done in the export market. If meat is to be delivered in various parts of the Continent, including Rome, in prime condition, it is absolutely essential that cooling should be quickly and efficiently carried out.

Another essential so far as the export market, and indeed for supply to the large meat preparation factories, is concerned, is the observance of strict meat hygiene. A pressurized water service is laid on to all parts of the Slaughter-Halls, a facility which has enabled a reasonably high standard of cleanliness to be maintained. The wiping down of carcasses is now a thing of the past, this operation being accomplished with a fine water spray from pressurized jets.

It is intended, as soon as opportunity affords, to extend the cooling accommodation on the smalls side.

The one main deficiency which remains in the Abattoir design, however, is the absence of a separate live animal entrance on the smalls side, which means that live, small animals are brought in between the smalls and cattle side buildings, a passage which is also used for the despatch of finished smalls carcasses. This could be overcome by the construction of a ramp on the West side of the smalls building to join up with the existing ramp at its first change of direction. If this improvement could be achieved it would keep completely separate the delivery of live animals and the despatch of finished carcasses, and reduce considerably the risk of contamination which inevitably arises from the dual use of this section of the premises. This improvement should be borne in mind if and when the cooling rooms on the smalls side are extended.

The reconstruction work at the bacon factory was almost completed during the year. What has been done has assisted through-put and improved the slaughtering line from the point of view of inspection. The cooling facilities have been improved and a separate chilling room for plucks has been provided. Work has still to be done on the carcase boning and cutting room. This is expected to be completed in the coming year.

Mention was made last year of the drive for improved hygiene in the slaughterhouses, both with regard to premises and employees. A reasonable standard of hygiene was maintained during the year, although it was necessary to institute proceedings on three occasions for smoking, fines being imposed of £3, £2 and £2 respectively.

Meat for Export

The exportation of meat abroad is now a regular feature of the Reading Abattoir operations and reflects Reading's international reputation as a slaughtering centre. During the year under review, meat was exported to France, Italy and Belgium, in addition to the London markets. After discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and a local Veterinarian, slaughtering and meat inspection arrangements were also organised with a view to export to Germany. Each importing country has its own importation regulations, and in the case of Germany it is necessary for the slaughterhouse to have separate facilities for emergency slaughter before the establishment will be approved by the authorities there. The necessary arrangements were completed towards the end of the year and were accordingly approved.

Reading is one of the country's most regular exporters of meat and is probably amongst the foremost so far as quantities are concerned. An interesting feature of the export trade is that it is mainly hind-quarters of beef which are required, which leaves the fore-quarters to be disposed of in the home market, the outlet for which is usually the North-West. It is probably true to say that only by means of this export trade has it been possible to operate the Abattoirs on a reasonably economic basis.

Up to the present, it has been necessary for consignments of meat for export to be certified by a Veterinarian, this being an importation condition of the importing country. The main reason for this is that the public health inspector has no counterpart abroad, the only officers responsible for meat inspection in these foreign countries being the Veterinarian. What is in effect, therefore, double certification, that is inspection by the Council's public health inspection staff and certification by a Veterinarian, does affect the export economics. This matter is being considered by the trade and other interested parties, and discussions are taking place with a view to the local authorities inspection system being approved for export purposes. The local arrangements for veterinary certification, however, have worked well during the year.

Casualty Animals

Emphasis is made each year on the importance of paying particular attention to casualty animals received at the Abattoirs and which may be sent in for different reasons—injury, thriftlessness, difficulty of parturition and suspect causes. It is a matter of routine to require, where appropriate, a certificate from the Veterinarian attending the casualty animal, or information from the owner giving details of treatment the animal has received and the reason for slaughter. There was need during the year for a fair amount of consultation between owners and Veterinarians in connection with these cases.

Inspectors on duty at the slaughterhouses had occasion again during 1964 to report cases of mishandling and cruelty. In two instances, proceedings were instituted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. One case relating to a sow and porker was dismissed, whilst in the other case, which involved a sheep, a fine of £5 was imposed.

The figures for animals sent in for emergency slaughter because of injury, or illness, were as follows:—

Cows 133; Heifers and Steers 36; Bulls 6; Sheep 55; Calves 2; Pigs 142.

Meat Inspection

88,410 animals were slaughtered and inspected at the Reading slaughterhouses during the year, compared with 85,435 in 1963. The inspection units involved were also slightly higher, being 708,278 compared with 694,940 last year. The through-put in Reading appears to have been far more consistent over the years than for most other places in the country where killings have generally been down of recent years. This is probably due to the extent of the export work here. So far as the figures relating to the various types of animals are concerned, the number of cattle is down, the number of calves is less this year than last—12,238 compared with 19,655. Sheep and lambs are up, which is also the case in respect of pigs.

We continue to get a number of cattle direct from Ireland for slaughter, the figure for 1964 being 1,510 compared with 1,915 last year. The policy of allowing animals from Ireland into this country for slaughter, is under constant review by the appropriate authorities, although it will be noted in the section on Tuberculosis that the proportion of animals found to be affected with Tuberculosis from this source, is much less than last year and considerably less than in 1962.

Details of inspection, together with condemnations, are referred to later in the report, and the amount of meat slaughtered and inspected is again illustrated in graph form on page 88.

1964 was our first full year in the working of the new Meat Inspection Regulations which made meat inspection a statutory duty on local authorities and laid down an obligatory meat inspection system. To meet the staff difficulties experienced in 1963, the Health Committee decided to appoint two Trainee Meat Inspectors. Due to the dates of their appointment it was not possible for them to attend Courses already approved by the Royal Society of Health at Colleges in London. However, in view of the fact that we have had for some years in Reading an internal departmental course for the training of Public Health Inspectors for the Royal Society of Health Diploma for the inspection of Meat and Other Foods, the examining body agreed that the two Trainee Meat Inspectors could be trained in a similar way. Both Trainees were successful in passing the examination.

Although it has since been necessary to replace one of these men who left to take up another appointment, this New-Class Meat Inspector has been of considerable value to the meat inspection service. It has reduced the demand on the time of District Public Health Inspectors for meat inspection, and has eased the amount of late working on meat inspection worked by each member of the staff.

For many years now we have provided meat inspection facilities and instruction to people training in meat inspection, both from the public health and veterinary fields.

Whilst the layouts at the slaughterhouses and varying factors of throughput are not ideal, a reasonable working arrangement has been achieved on meat inspection, although difficulties arise from time to time due to delays in transportation, slaughterhouse staff difficulties, trade demands and other factors.

So far as meat inspection charges are concerned, the regulations laid down a maximum of 2s. 6d. a beast, 9d. for each calf or pig and 6d. in the case of each sheep, lamb or goat, together with a provision that it is open to local authorities to negotiate special contracts on a basis which will not exact the maximum charges where regular or large-scale slaughtering takes place. Contracts were negotiated on this basis at both the Abattoirs and Venners. As already mentioned, the slaughtering establishment in Newtown ceased operations last year.

The means of streamlining slaughtering and inspection have been constantly kept in mind and discussed with the firms at the Abattoirs and the Bacon Factory, and there has been a real endeavour to reduce late working. Some economies have been made, but there is still room for improvement. A part answer to this question of late slaughtering is the improvement and extension of cooling and refrigeration

facilities which would assist in levelling out slaughtering peaks and minimising the day to day fluctuations in slaughtering to meet short-term high demands for meat. Both firms have improved their cooling facilities. It is hoped that this will be used to its best advantage.

Tuberculosis

It will be noted from the table below that the incidence of Tuberculosis in the principal classes of animals is maintained at a very low level. There has been no case of Tuberculosis in sheep for some years. The figures for cattle are much the same as last year. It is interesting to note, however, that the incidence found in Irish cattle —0.13% in a total of 1,510 slaughtered, has almost been reduced to that for local cattle. There has been close collaboration during the year with the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on disease conditions generally, but with respect to Tuberculosis in Irish imported cattle in particular. Where imported cattle are found to be infected, full details relating to the animal are forwarded to the Ministry who endeavour to carry out a full investigation in the field with a view to eliminating the infection at the source.

Only 9 animals were sent in for slaughter during the year under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938 and the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950.

Year	Cattle (excluding cows)		Cows		Calves		Pigs	
	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected	Kill	% affected
1948	3,687	12.04	1,631	49.85	4,297	—	10,235	3.89
1960	13,812	0.898	13,988	0.114	23,073	—	62,089	0.098
1961	19,842	1.74	11,617	0.15	23,077	0.002	70,071	0.15
1962	17,560	0.90	13,783	0.31	23,417	0.017	78,219	0.16
1963	16,239	0.228	16,491	0.024	19,655	—	72,495	0.099
1964	15,792	0.032	13,678	0.051	12,238	—	85,874	0.052

Cysticercus Bovis

The number of carcasses found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis*, either viable or resolved, during the year was 12 compared with 24 last year. There were no generalised cases. In 7 instances, carcasses were refrigerated as recommended in Memo 3 Meat before being passed as fit for human consumption. In the other cases, where not more than one degenerate cysticercus was found, offals were condemned and after jointing produced no evidence of viable infestation, the meat was released. Low-temperature refrigeration facilities are very satisfactory in Reading and we have now eight centres where meat can be refrigerated in accordance with the recommendations relating to *Cysticercus Bovis*.

In addition to the cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* found locally, a number of affected carcasses were sent in from Local Authorities outside, for refrigeration for the prescribed period. We are notified by the Public Health Inspector for the appropriate authority of the time and place at which the carcass will be treated, and we arrange for surveillance of the carcass accordingly. After appropriate treatment, the carcass is stamped by the inspectors.

Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894-1950

Public Health Inspectors qualified in meat inspection are appointed as authorised officers for the purposes of the Diseases of Animals Acts, and are responsible for

ensuring proper disposal of diseased carcasses and for the disinfection of infected premises.

It is interesting to note that, in 1964, as was the case in 1963, no notifications were received under the above Acts. The measures introduced in recent years—The Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957, and the Swine Fever Order, 1963, appear to be operating most successfully. 29 piggeries are registered with the authority under the former Order and were subject to routine inspection during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1958

A total of 57 licences to slaughter animals under the provisions of the above Acts, was issued during the year. The system of issuing a conditional licence to a man newly taking up this work, is still working satisfactorily.

Condemned Meat

86 tons of meat were condemned during the year at the Abattoirs and other slaughterhouses. The table below sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with the details of condemnations, and is in the form required by the Ministry. We have been consulted by the Ministry and other organisations in connection with certain types of disease found on meat inspection.

A feature of the inspection of pigs has been the number of cases where abscesses have been found, mainly in the leg. Whilst we have no conclusive evidence that this is the case, it has been suggested that this increased incidence is due to some extent to the use of "do-it-yourself" injection kits being used more extensively on farms by Non-Veterinarians.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	15,792	13,678	12,238	59,621	85,874	Nil
Number inspected	15,792	13,678	12,238	59,621	85,874	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses con- demned	5	151	150	100	208	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3,775	7,180	328	5,796	20,641	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	23.93	53.59	3.90	9.88	26.68	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	7	—	—	45	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	0.032	0.051	—	—	0.052	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis:</i> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	—	—	—	—	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

Whole Carcasses

	Heifers & Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Boars & Sows	Sheep
Arthritis	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Bruising and Injuries	—	3	—	—	—	1	1
Dead in lairage	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ill-bled	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
Immaturity	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Joint-ill	—	—	—	44	—	—	—
Johnes Disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oedema and/or Emaciation	—	107	2	84	3	14	78
Pyæmia	—	3	—	5	77	32	9
Pyrexia	1	7	—	5	39	11	9
All Septicæmia conditions	1	27	—	—	12	12	3
Tumours	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
	3	151	2	150	138	70	100

Part Carcasses

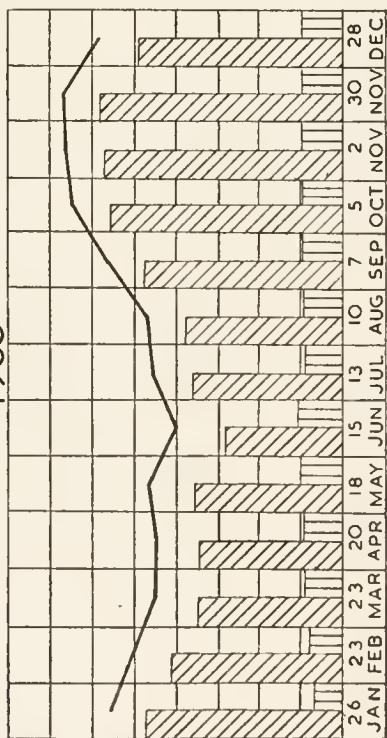
	Heifers and Steers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Boars and Sows	Sheep
Abscess	—	5	—	—	123	—	—
Arthritis	—	—	—	—	321	—	—
Bruising and/or Injuries	—	16	—	1	54	—	10
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	4	—	2
	—	22	—	1	502	—	12

Organs, etc.

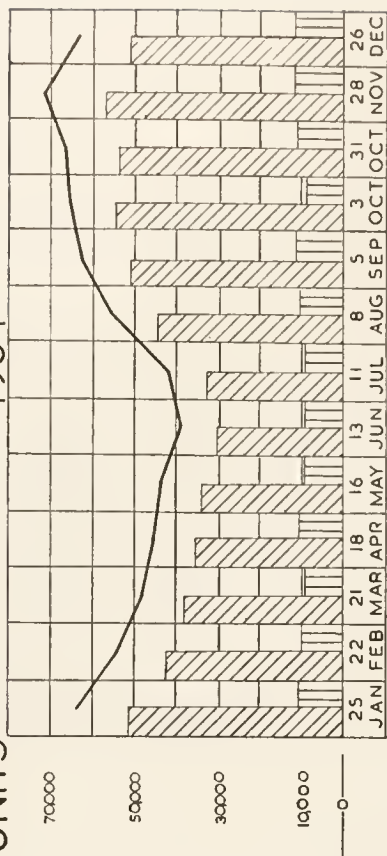
<i>Head and Tongues</i>		<i>Lungs</i>	
Tuberculosis	134	Tuberculosis	12
Abscess	283	Abscess	162
Actinomycosis	92	Congestion	2,100
Cysticercus Bovis	181	Echinococcosis (cysts)	107
		Distomatosis	104
		Emphysema	40
		Pleurisy	3,214
		Pneumonia	4,680
<i>Livers</i>		<i>Stomachs</i>	
Tuberculosis	2	Tuberculosis	19
Abscess	790	Abscess	8
Angioma	2,032		
Cirrhosis	1,573		
Echinococcosis (cysts)	115		
Fatty Degeneration	213		
Distomatosis	10,938		
Milkspot	4,574		
Necrosis	92		
Peritonitis	1,492		
<i>Part Livers</i>		<i>Hearts</i>	
Distomatosis	910	Pericarditis	3,388
<i>Spleens</i>		<i>Kidneys</i>	
Peritonitis	521	Cysts	1,084
		Nephritis	1,668
<i>Udders</i>		<i>Intestines</i>	
Abscess	11	Tuberculosis	12
Mastitis	156	Johnes Disease	1
		Peritonitis	1,744

MEAT INSPECTION UNITS

1963



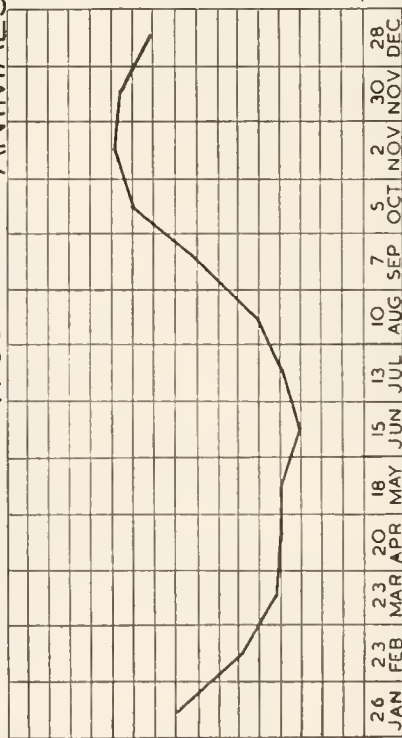
1964



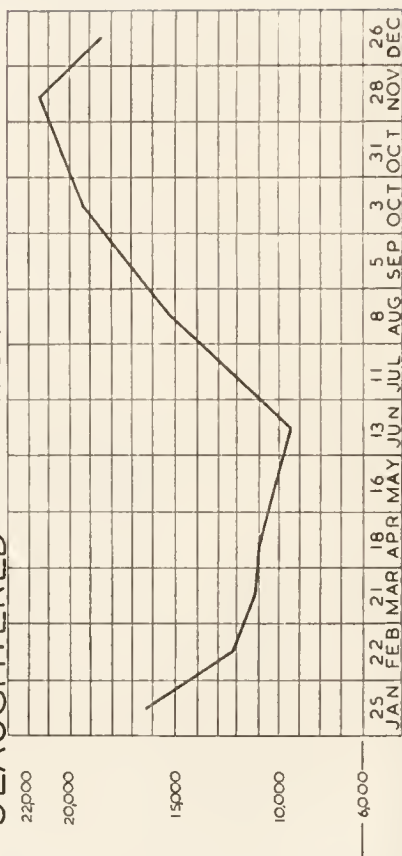
KEY PUBLIC ABATTOIR

BACON FACTORY

1963



1964



4 WEEK PERIODS

Knacker's Yard

There is only one knacker's yard in the Borough. Although no slaughtering is carried out, it is subject to annual licensing by the Council. The premises were reasonably well-maintained during the year. The register kept in accordance with the Knacker's Yard Orders shows that 146 bovine and 32 equine carcasses were dealt with on the premises during the year. Public Health Inspectors made numerous visits to the premises during 1964.

(b) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

952 visits were paid to food establishments during the year for the purpose of inspecting foodstuffs and to condemn that which was unfit for human consumption. Approximately 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons of food were condemned and 1,056 certificates issued to the traders concerned. Some of this work is done as part of routine visits and inspections, but a fair amount of Inspectors' time is occupied in advising traders on the fitness of food. Despite the increase in refrigeration facilities in the town, too much food is still being lost by deterioration. It is felt that there is need for improved housekeeping in some food establishments in the town.

CONDEMNED FOOD

Bacon, Gammon and Ham	4513 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Bread	1 loaf
Brisket Beef (Cooked)	28 lb.
Brawn	153 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Butter-oil	216 lb.
Cabbages	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Cake Mix	3 packets
Cheese	18 lb.
Chopped Pork Roll	72 lb.
Corned Beef and Mutton	236 lb.
Crabs	17 lb.
Dried Fruit	28 lb.
Eggs	1 dozen
Fish	221 lb.
Fruit pulp (incl. Tomato puree)	729 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Ground Rice	6 lb.
Ham and Tongue Roll	280 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Jam and Marmalade	178 lb.
Jellied Veal	102 lb.
Kidneys	155 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Lemon Curd	9 lb.
Liver	425 lb.
Lunch Tongue and Ox Tongue	121 lb.
Macaroni	20 lb.
Meat	11,378 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Mushrooms	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Offal	963 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Orange and Lemon Squash	36 bottles
Pears—fresh	13 boxes
Pickles—various	17 lb.
Pickling Onions	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.
Poultry	177 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

Prunes	30 lb.
Rabbit	50 lb.
Sausages and Chipolatas	218 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Sausage Meat	20 lb.
Savoury and Onion Roll	28 lb.
Tins—assorted	9,769 tins
Watercress	10 chips
Yeast	22 lb.

FOOD CONDEMNED BY REASON OF BREAKDOWN IN REFRIGERATION

Cheese (Cottage)	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Cheeseburgers	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Chipped Potatoes	72 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Cream—Double	14 lb.
Cream—Single	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Croquettes	1 lb.
Dairy Cream Sponge and Eclairs	14 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Dinners—various	40 lb.
Fish and Fish Fingers	974 lb.
Fish Cakes	84 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Ice Cream	38 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Meat	634 lb.
Meat Balls and Burgers	147 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Mousse	37 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Pastry—Puff and Short	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Pies—various	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Poultry	39 lb.
Sausage Rolls	10 lb.
Scampi	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Shepherds Pie	24 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Vegetables and Fruit—various	750 lb.
Yoghurt	18 lb.

(c) MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

There are two licensed milk pasteurisation plants in the town, one operated by the Reading Co-operative Society Limited at 150 Oxford Road. The other is at the Dairy Department, Reading University. Both plants are of the H.T.S.T. pattern. So far as the plant at the University is concerned, whilst it is used primarily for instruction and demonstration to students at the University, it is available for use for trade purposes at peak periods or in the event of emergency.

During the year, the following licences were issued. Some of these related to new premises, some were issued in connection with changes in occupation:—

25 Pasteurised; 15 Sterilised; 9 Tuberculin Tested.

Milk Receptacles

Bottles submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination continued to give a satisfactory bacteriological standard, the colony counts being well within the provisional classification range. A number of complaints were received from members of the public concerning the condition of milk bottles. It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings in two instances, which resulted in fines of £20 and £25

respectively. The dairies continued to be very concerned about the condition of some of the bottles returned to the dairy. There is no doubt that a great deal can still be done by the public to minimise the cause of complaints.

One complaint was received concerning the condition of a churn in which milk was delivered to a local school. This case was referred to the Licensing Authority.

Samples: Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

The results of samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, are as follows:—

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples		
			Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised ...	88	Phosphatase	88	—	—
		Methylene Blue	88	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	237	Phosphatase	237	—	—
		Methylene Blue	233	1	3
Tuberculin Tested	102	Methylene Blue	73	12	17
Sterilised	101	Turbidity	101	—	—

It will be noted that there are no Phosphatase failures during the year, which indicates, to some extent, the efficiency of pasteurisation. Only one Pasteurised Milk failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue test. The number of samples of Raw Milk failing the Methylene Blue test, however, is considerably higher than that for last year. This is supplied from sources outside the town and appropriate action was taken. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was also informed where necessary.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, re-enacted, with certain amendments, the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960. The principal changes took effect as from October 1st, 1964, the designation "Untreated" replacing "Tuberculin Tested" as the special designation for Raw Milk. The special designations "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised" remain, but the designation "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" is discontinued, this milk coming under the heading of "Pasteurised". The old designation has been discontinued as all milk sold to the public is now from Tuberculin Tested cattle.

Antibiotics in Milk

In August, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food issued an advisory circular relating to the sampling of milk and testing for the presence of antibiotics. The circular suggested that the testing done by Food and Drugs Authorities, should be of ex-farm milk sampled at as early a stage as possible. 42 samples of milk were submitted for analysis during the whole of 1964 for the presence of antibiotics. 2 samples were reported to contain over 0.05 international units per millilitre of penicillin. The sources were investigated in these cases and follow-up samples proved satisfactory.

School Milk

Milk deliveries to the Council's Schools were checked during the year, both under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and the Food and Drugs Act. The results of all samples taken were reported as satisfactory.

Ice Cream

There was again a slight increase in the number of dealers registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, giving a total of 611 on the register in 1964. The number of ice cream manufacturing establishments in the town remains the same. In addition to registered premises selling ice cream, we have a large distributing depot from which mobile ice cream vans operate. These vehicles have a continuous freezer installed in the van which is also fitted with suitable washing facilities including hot and cold water and refrigerated storage space for the ice cream mix. The ice cream mix is received from a large ice cream factory in the South-East in sealed cans. The ice cream mix is made into ice cream in the vehicles as they proceed on their rounds. Whilst the number of grade 4 samples obtained from these mobile sources was somewhat less this year than in 1963, the results obtained do suggest that the circumstances of ice cream handling and processing are somewhat less reliable in vehicles than those which obtain in registered premises. As a result of our investigations and discussions with the firm, the old system of distributing pasturised mix in polyethene containers has been superseded by sterilised mix in sealed cans, but this does not overcome the problems associated with handling and plant sterilisation. So far as bacteriological results are concerned, a great deal will depend upon the food handlers themselves. Appreciating the difficulties of this trade, adequate supervision of plant sterilisation in the depot as well as checks on the round, are very necessary.

During 1964, 164 samples of ice cream and 29 samples of ice cream mix were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, and the results of the tests applied are as follows:—

	<i>Ice Cream</i>	<i>Liquid Mix</i>
Provisional Grade 1	92	14
Provisional Grade 2	37	4
Provisional Grade 3	23	4
Provisional Grade 4	12	7

All samples reported in Grade 3 and 4 were investigated and appropriate advice, including instruction on sterilisation, was given.

Ice Cream Vehicles, Stalls, etc.

The stalls erected in parks, playing fields and Thames Side and ice cream vehicles operating in the town, were regularly inspected during the year and conditions were found to be fairly satisfactory.

(d) FOOD HANDLING

Food premises registered or otherwise subject to regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act were regularly inspected during the year, some 5,129 visits being paid by the Public Health Inspectors. Experience shows that there is no real substitute for regular and frequent inspection. Personal contact with the proprietors of food establishments and their staffs provides a constant opportunity of reminding them



STAFF TOILETS

(with the courtesy of Marks & Spencer Ltd.)

of their obligations, and giving instruction and advice when necessary. Generally, the conditions found were reasonably satisfactory although it was necessary to take proceedings in two instances. One case concerned a bakery and another a mobile hot dog stall. The proprietor of the bakery was fined £85 in respect of several contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. The proprietor of the hot dog stall was fined £10 for similar offences. Warnings were also given by the Council in relation to alleged contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations in a butcher's shop and a bakery.

Several new food establishments were opened in the town and numerous improvements were made in existing premises. Two firms of national repute have introduced constructional and hygienic practice standards which are worthy of the highest commendation. The photograph on page 94 shows a staff toilet in one of the stores in the town. The layout and construction is hygienic, easily maintained and kept clean. The walls and floor are tiled in suitable hygienic material. The double range of wash-basins arranged as a centre unit, are provided with dual-control taps, the one tap providing both hot and cold water. Soap dispensers, discardable towel units, a drinking water tap and discardable drinking water vessel dispenser are all shown in this unit. The water closet compartments are well-constructed, designed and ventilated. It is our experience that a high standard of premises and control encourages a high standard of practice by the employees themselves.

As a matter of routine, all plans of new food establishments submitted to the Borough Surveyor during the year for bylaw approval were examined by the department and appropriate advice given where necessary. A fair number of requests to the department for advice were also dealt with. Most traders appreciate the opportunity of discussing problems and standards when going into new premises or making alterations, and the department is only too willing to help.

Food Hygiene Instruction

Particularly as a result of the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak, it was decided to make a special effort again this year in instructing food handlers on food hygiene. Both film shows and lectures were arranged. No doubt due to the national publicity given to this question of food hygiene, meetings were better attended than has been the case in the past. In some instances, film shows and talks were given in food establishments themselves, others were given in specially hired halls or in the Board Room at Thorn Street. The films shown were "The Invaders", "Another Case of Food Poisoning", "Most Precious Gift" and "By Whose Hand", each of which emphasized some particular aspect of food handling. Opportunity was also taken to distribute appropriate literature including posters and information leaflets.

In September, talks on the importance of food hygiene were given at a Conference arranged for the School Meals Supervisory and Kitchen staff, and a film on the subject was shown.

There is a great deal still to be done, however, in connection with food hygiene. It is well known that legislation normally lags behind good trade practice, and this is particularly the case so far as the temperature controlled storing of cooked meats is concerned. The importance of temperature control of goods of this kind is stressed in the Milne Committee Report—"The Aberdeen Typhoid Outbreak 1964", which states as follows:—

"we have . . . stated our view that the infection most probably originated in a can of corned beef. This can would be opened by the can opener fixed to the wall in the storage space behind the shop, the contents would be divided into two parts, one part being placed on the shelf behind the cold meat counter and the remainder in the window. The epidemiological evidence shows that the infection of the earliest patients took place somewhere between May 7th and 9th. An

examination of the meteorological records indicates that the weather in Aberdeen at that time was warm and it must be remembered that the corned beef was being placed in a south-facing window. We have been told both by independent bacteriologists and those appearing on behalf of trade concerns that corned beef, once the can is opened, is an ideal medium for the growth of bacteria. We consider that if a piece of contaminated corned beef were held in conditions comparable with those which would obtain in the window of the shop early in May, such conditions would be extremely favourable for the growth of bacteria and we should expect such growth to be rapid. The multiplication powers of the typhoid bacillus are such that in a matter of a few hours a few bacteria could develop into several million".

Whilst the Food Hygiene Regulations, in certain circumstances, recognise the danger of storing these so-called dangerous foods at a temperature favourable for bacterial growth and specifying temperatures at which they should be stored, the requirements do not apply to cold, cooked meats exposed for retail sale. Although the use of refrigerated display cabinets is increasing, there is still too much susceptible foodstuff displayed in shop windows or otherwise stored at undesirable temperatures.

Food Complaints

The number of complaints relating to food generally continues to increase, 130 being investigated during the year. In most instances, the situation was met by advice being given to traders or householders. In 15 instances letters of warning were sent to firms, and in 8 cases proceedings were instituted with the following results:—

- (1) Mould in jam and cream sponge. Fined £75.
- (2) Insect in loaf of bread. Fined 25.
- (3) Dirt and hair in confectionery. Fined £30.
- (4) Coin in bread. Fined £50.
- (5) Parts of nail in sliced loaf. Fined £50.
- (6) Chicken from mobile van, unfit. Fined £15.
- (7) Mouldy loaf. Fined £25.
- (8) Cornish pasty containing piece of cloth. Fined £10.

In one instance, it was decided to inform the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of conditions found in a tin of braised beef imported from East Africa.

As a result of the typhoid outbreak at Aberdeen, attention was focused during the year on canned meat products. Following communications from the Ministry of Health, local stocks of corned beef bearing the code letters of the batches implicated at Aberdeen, were withdrawn from sale. In connection with this matter, numerous visits to food establishments were necessary to clear up doubts about the Ministry's requirements. At this time there were, of course, many enquiries from traders and the public about canned meat products which were not really implicated with the Aberdeen outbreak at all.

A number of food complaints received during the Summer months concerned the spoilage of food. Following a complaint by a retailer, we were asked for advice on the approximate life of meat pies by one of the wholesaling firms in the town. After an investigation during which samples of meat pies kept at atmospheric temperature after baking, and meat pies which were rapidly cooled and chilled after baking, were examined, it was concluded that, during the Summer months, pies merely cooled at atmospheric temperatures had a shelf life limit of two days. Those cooled and maintained in chilled conditions were found to be fit after five days. There

is no doubt, however, particularly bearing in mind the bacteriologists' observations on page 29, that the practice of maintaining pies at Summer atmospheric temperatures is unsatisfactory from a public health point of view.

(c) *SAMPLING, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955*

During 1964, the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food issued their report on the composition, description, labelling and advertising of food.

The guiding principles in formulating the report were based on the following:—

- (a) Regulations for labelling must be designed to protect consumers and honest traders.
- (b) If consumer and trade interests conflict, then the interests of consumers must take precedence.
- (c) All labelling should be as clear and informative as possible.

In the comprehensive summary of recommendations, mention is made *inter alia*, that the use of a registered trade mark should no longer be allowed as an alternative to the name and address of the labeller or packer.

The report concluded with a list of names (or alternative names) by which fish should be sold retail.

Implementation of the Committee's recommendations will certainly be in the interest of consumer protection.

Legislation which came into force during 1964 included the Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963, which required the pasteurisation of liquid egg to be used in food intended for sale for human consumption other than egg broken out on the food manufacturer's premises and used within 24 hours. The regulations prescribed the method of pasteurisation and the test to be satisfied.

In this connection, six samples were submitted for examination and satisfied the prescribed test.

The Soft Drinks Regulations, 1963, re-enacted, with amendments, the Food Standards (Soft Drinks) Order, 1953. The Bread and Flour Regulations, 1963, came into operation on September 1st, 1964. This Act prescribes permitted ingredients for various varieties of bread and requirements as to labelling and advertising. They also impose restrictions on claims that any bread, biscuits, rusks, cereal or breakfast foods are starch reduced or can aid slimming.

During the year, 420 samples of food and drugs were submitted for examination, 24 (5.71%) were reported to be not up to standard. The figure for 1963 was 3.99%.

Of the samples obtained, 106 were milk, and of these, 1 (0.94%) was below the prescribed standard. This compared with 4 (2.42%) out of a total of 161 obtained last year.

Details of the food and drugs procured during the year, together with comments on the unsatisfactory samples, are contained in the following tables:—

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Almond Essence	1	1	—
Almonds—Ground	1	1	—
Arrowroot	1	1	—
Aspirin	1	1	—
Beans—Baked	1	1	—
Beef with Beans	1	1	—
Beef—Corned	1	1	—
Beef Stock Cube	1	1	—
Beefburgers	1	1	—
Beefsteak, Stewed	1	1	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	1	—
Biscuits Mix	1	1	—
Bread	4	1	3
Bread and Butter	1	1	—
Bread Mix	2	2	—
Bun Ring	1	1	—
Butter	6	5	1
Butter—Brandy Flavour	1	1	—
Cakes—with Butter	2	2	—
Cakes—Battenburg	1	1	—
Cakes—Fruit	1	1	—
Cakes—Ginger	1	1	—
Cakes—Seed	1	1	—
Cannelloni	1	1	—
Caraway Seeds	1	1	—
Cereal	1	1	—
Cheese—Various	4	4	—
Cheese Biscuits	1	1	—
Cheese Twistees	1	1	—
Cherries—Cocktail	1	1	—
Cherries—Glacé	3	3	—
Chicken Curry	1	1	—
Chicken and Mushrooms	1	1	—
Chicken in Sauce	1	1	—
Chicken Stock Cube	1	1	—
Cloves	1	1	—
Cochineal	1	1	—
Cockles	1	1	—
Cocoa	1	1	—
Coconut—Desiccated	3	3	—
Coffee	4	4	—
Crab	3	3	—
Cream—Various	12	11	1
Cream Filling, Artificial	2	2	—
Cream Mix—Chocolate	1	1	—
Dinners—Meat	2	2	—
Drinks—Choc. Flavour	3	3	—
Drinks—Soft	4	4	—
Eclairs	1	1	—
Fish Cakes	6	6	—
Flavourings	2	2	—
Flour—Self-raising	2	2	—
Flour Pancake and Butter	1	1	—
Fruit—Dried	6	6	—
Fruit—Tinned	3	3	—
Fruit—Juices, Drinks and Squashes	4	4	—
Fruit Sauce	1	1	—
Fruit Pie	1	1	—
Fudge	1	1	—
Gateau—Savour Cheese	1	1	—
Ginger—Crystallised	1	1	—
Grill, Ready Mixed	1	—	1

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Ham Roll	1	1	—
Ham and Tongue Roll	1	1	—
Ham and Chicken Roll	1	1	—
Hamburgers	2	2	—
Haricot Beans—Dried	1	—	1
Herrings in Lemon Juice	1	1	—
Ice Cream—Cornish	1	1	—
Ice Cream Powder	1	1	—
Ice Lolly, Choc. Coated	1	1	—
Ice Lolly Syrup	1	1	—
Jam and Jelly	4	4	—
Lard	1	1	—
Lemon Curd	1	1	—
Lemonade Powder	1	1	—
Lentils	1	1	—
Liver, Bacon and Onion	1	1	—
Margarine	3	3	—
Marmalade	1	1	—
Milk	106	105	1
Milk—Evaporated	3	3	—
Milk—Hot	14	6	8
Milk—Shake Syrup	2	2	—
Minceed Meats	4	4	—
Minced meat	7	7	—
Mint Sauce	3	3	—
Mushrooms in Mushroom Stock	1	1	—
Mussels	1	1	—
Mustard	2	2	—
Nuts—Mixed	1	1	—
Ox Tongue and Beef	1	1	—
Pastes and Spreads—Various)	7	7	—
Pastry—Puff	1	1	—
Pearl Barley	1	1	—
Pears—Fresh	1	1	—
Peas—Dried	1	1	—
Peas—Garden	2	2	—
Peas—Processed	1	1	—
Pepper	1	1	—
Pickles, Chutney and Sauce	10	10	—
Pies—Steak and Kidney	1	—	1
Pie Filling	2	2	—
Pilehards-in-Tomato Sauce	1	1	—
Pork Luncheon Meat	2	2	—
Pork Roast	1	1	—
Pork Roll—Stuffed	2	2	—
Potato Crisps	3	3	—
Puddings—Christmas	1	1	—
Puddings—Fruit	1	1	—
Puddings—Mix	3	3	—
Puddings—Sponge	4	4	—
Rennet—Essence of	1	1	—
Rice	3	3	—
Salad Cream	1	1	—
Salt—Celery	1	1	—
Sausages—Beef	11	10	1
Sausages—Cambridge	1	1	—
Sausages—Frankfurters	4	4	—
Sausages—Liver	2	2	—
Sausages—Polony	3	3	—
Sausages—Pork	11	10	1
Sausage Meat—Pork	1	1	—
Soup	3	3	—

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLES

Article examined	Number of Samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Spaghetti Milanese	1	1	—
Sponge—Chocolate	2	1	1
Sponge Dairy Cream	1	1	—
Steak—Stewed with Gravy	6	2	4
Stuffing—Sage and Onion	1	1	—
Suet	1	1	—
Sugar	4	4	—
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery	8	8	—
Vegetables—Canned	7	7	—
Vinegar, Malt	7	7	—
Yoghurt	3	3	—
Gin	1	1	—
Rum	1	1	—
Whiskey	1	1	—
	420	396	24

ACTION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE SAMPLES REPORTED AS ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD

No. of Sample	Article	Whether Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Observations
2	Milk	Informal	Contained 2% added water	Follow-up samples proved satisfactory
102	Pork Sausages	Formal	Contained only 59% meat	Letter of warning
103	Beef Sausages	Formal	Contained only 46% meat	Letter of warning
155	Mixed Readi Grill	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Matter taken up with manufacturers
163	Chocolate Sandwich	Informal	Incorrectly labelled	Matter taken up with manufacturers
173	Stewed steak with Gravy	Informal	Contained only 68% meat	See 189
184	Bulk Butter	Informal	Discoloured and stored too long	Consignment destroyed
189	Stewed steak with Gravy	Formal	Contained only 68% meat	Legal Proceedings, firm fined £10
208	Steak and Kidney Pie	Formal	Contained only 20% meat	Further samples unobtainable, no action taken
287	Stewed steak with Gravy	Informal	Contained only 60% meat	See 349
349	Stewed steak with Gravy	Formal	Contained only 61% meat	Legal Proceedings, Fined £25
341	Glass hot milk	Informal	5.9% deficient in Solids-not-fat	See 343
342	Glass hot milk	Informal	Contained 11.5% added water	See 348 and 395
343	2 glasses hot milk	Formal	Contained 7.4% added water	Letter of warning
345	2 glasses hot milk	Formal	Contained 30% added water	See 396
346	2 glasses hot milk	Formal	Contained 11% added water	Letter of warning
348	2 beakers hot milk	Formal	Contained 21% added water	See 395
378	Slice white loaf	Informal	Contained floor sweepings	Legal Proceedings, Fined £50
388	Loaf of bread	Informal	Extraneous matter on surface	Letter of warning
389	Haricot Beans	Informal	Extraneous matter consisting of iron, wood splinters, etc.	Letter of warning
392	White bread	Informal	Extraneous matter	Letter of warning
393	Double Cream	Informal	Contained dust	Legal Proceedings, Fined £20
395	2 glasses hot milk	Formal	Contained 23.9% added water	Fined £20
396	2 glasses hot milk	Formal	Contained 16.6% added water	Fined £20

Merchandise Marks Act

The marking of imported foodstuffs exposed for sale is regularly checked by Inspectors when visiting food premises. Four hundred and seventy-nine visits were paid for the purpose of checking the markings of imported foodstuffs during the year.

Whilst the Act was generally well observed and there was no call to institute proceedings in connection with these matters, it was necessary to issue one warning with regard to the labelling of imported meat.

3. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Installation of New Furnaces

Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, requires persons installing new furnaces (other than domestic appliances of less than 55,000 British Thermal Units per hour capacity) to notify the local authority. This provision is important in that we are then aware of the location of these new installations and observations can be made to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act from the outset. Whilst modern installations have a high efficiency and are normally capable of continuous operation with the minimum of smoke emission, incorrect installation can result in considerable nuisance to residents. It is therefore desirable that we should ensure that the proposed plant is efficiently installed and that the burners and other appliances are properly adjusted so as to ensure efficiency and, as far as possible, freedom from nuisance.

79 formal notifications were received during the year. The steadily increasing numbers of new furnaces installed since 1956 reflects the development of factory estates and the replacement of obsolete furnaces.

The types of installation are as follows:—

Type of Furnace	Fuel		
	Oil	Gas	Solid Fuel
Packaged Steam Boiler . .	11	—	—
Vertical Steam Boiler . . .	1	—	—
Sectional Heating Boiler . .	28	23	3
Direct-fired Warm Air Heater .	13	—	—
TOTAL . . .	53	23	3

70% of the oil-fired furnaces were designed to use a distillate fuel oil which has a lower sulphur content than the average solid fuel. Those installations designed for residual fuel oils with a higher sulphur content, were for large installations where higher chimneys would give adequate dispersion of the flue gases, and have the effect of minimising the ground level concentration of sulphur dioxide. It is interesting to note the decreasing proportion of solid fuel burning installations as compared with those for burning oil and gas. It is clear that industry is paying much greater attention to efficiency in the boiler-house than was the case in the past, and that the tendency

today is towards the more sophisticated fuels. The technological developments in the gas industry too are showing their effect in the industrial fuel market. Gas, whether produced from solid fuel or from oil, or whether from a natural source, is relatively low in sulphur content. Therefore, strictly from a public health point of view, its wider use is to be welcomed.

Chimney Heights

The Memorandum on Chimney Heights issued by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1963, is intended to provide a relatively simple method of calculating the approximate height of chimney commonly desirable in normal circumstances. The memorandum is applicable to chimneys of boilers or furnaces of 650-lb. steam/hour (or 0.65 million B.T.U.'s/Hour) and not exceeding 450,000 lb. steam/hour (or 450 million B.T.U.'s/Hour). The chimneys of boiler plant below these ratings are dealt with according to individual merit, whilst those with ratings above the maximum will normally be in processes registered under the Alkali Act and therefore the chimney height will be controlled by the Alkali Inspector.

The method of calculation is based on the estimated maximum rate of sulphur dioxide emission from the chimney, and is adjusted according to the type of district in which the chimney is to be situated. There are five categories of district, according to density and type of development and the existing level of atmospheric pollution. We are fortunate in Reading, as the figures from the intensive measurements carried out in conjunction with Reading University give a fairly good picture of the average levels in the various parts of the County Borough. This will show in greater detail as this work progresses.

The height obtained from this basic calculation is termed the "uncorrected" height, the final chimney height being adjusted to allow for the effects of the building to which it is attached. Minimum heights recommended are 40 feet and not less than 10 feet above the ridge level of the building.

There are, of course, two view-points on what should be a reasonable chimney height. The first must surely be on health grounds and the possibility of material or social nuisance. The principles laid down in the Ministry's Memorandum as affected by local conditions, e.g., heights of adjoining land or buildings, or the proximity of other buildings, are intended to meet this point. Secondly, there is the planning or aesthetic side where it is a question of chimney height and how the chimney blends with the feature of the building. We have had some cases where the first condition could be satisfied by the provision of a sufficiently high chimney, but where the height or prominence of the chimney conflicted with the planning concept for the building or area. Fortunately, in the cases of difficulty we have experienced so far, it has been possible to satisfy both health and planning requirements by discussion with developers and, where necessary, suggesting alternative fuels which, for example, have a lower sulphur content or reduce the possibility of nuisance. Whilst planning considerations are important, health hazards must not be overlooked. With the degree of fuel technology we have available today, such problems as may arise should be capable of being reasonably solved.

Some 72 cases of new chimneys were dealt with during the year under review. There were 20 instances where increased chimney heights were recommended.

I would like to emphasize, once again, that to avoid delay in dealing with new chimneys, it is important that Architects and Developers should give details of the capacity of boilers, furnaces and the type of fuel to be used, at the time plans are submitted. On a number of occasions, plans have been submitted with the barest details and more information has had to be sought which, of course, has resulted in delay.

Complaints and Observations

The number of complaints received from residents in the Borough during the year, alleging nuisance from smoke, grit and fumes, was 19. During the investigation of these complaints and as a matter of routine, 128 observations on chimneys and industrial processes were carried out. No contraventions of Section 1 were noted, the density and periods of smoke emission being less than that laid down in the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations.

In recent years reference has been made to complaints received regarding hospital chimneys. I am pleased to be able to report that the plant at both hospitals has now been converted, one to oil firing and the other to solid fuel with automatic stoking. No complaints have been received since the conversions took place. Discussions also took place with the Hospital Authorities regarding the use of incinerators and a modern type incinerator which embodies a suitable type of after-burner has been installed. Advice has also been given to managements of other establishments in the town on types of incinerator suitable for installation in commercial premises.

Trouble was again experienced from a solid fuel burning installation in the town, complaints being received about the discharge of grit and dust. This was mainly due to a change in stokers. The plant, however, is fairly old and consideration is being given by the firm to the possibility of converting to oil firing. There were further complaints during the year from residents in the Elgar Road area concerning smoke discharge from a cupola. The best practicable means for minimising nuisance are adopted in the establishment, wet washers having been installed in these premises in recent times. Whilst this is little consolation to nearby residents, it must be realised that foundries cannot be operated without the discharge of some degree of smoke or fumes. Particular attention however has been given to these Works over the last few years with a view to minimising nuisance as far as possible.

One recurring type of nuisance is that which arises by the burning of rubbish in the open. Rubbish burnt in these cases took several forms. There is the case where old cars are dismantled and upholstery, care-worn tyres and other miscellaneous rubbish from the vehicles is removed, which, on being burnt, produces dense volumes of thick, black smoke which roll for considerable distances over the countryside and create both an eyesore and nuisance to residents in the town; there is the burning of old, rotted timber on demolition sites which is often burnt without due regard to inconvenience caused to the public in general; the burning of shavings and other trade waste in the open, and then there is the nuisance caused by garden bonfires. So far as the latter category is concerned, it is entirely a matter of good neighbourliness and good housekeeping. With a little thought, rubbish can be disposed of with the minimum of nuisance, by composting, removal to some suitable place for dumping, or, as a last resort, burning in a place, at a time and in such a manner as to cause the minimum of trouble to anyone. Advice was given in these cases and informal action proved generally sufficient to abate the nuisances.

There was close liaison with the District Alkali Works Inspector in connection with processes registered under the Alkali Works Act.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the steps taken to minimise the emission of smoke and the creation of nuisance from brick kilns and potteries in the town. Only one complaint was received during the year relating to smoke from these premises. This matter was investigated and also reported to the Alkali Works Inspector. Informal action resulted in the abatement of the nuisance. The conversion to mechanical firing of brick kilns continues slowly. Whilst experiments appeared at first to be most successful, there are difficulties in application. The National Coal Board particularly, hopes the plant will be more widely adopted. The situation is being watched with interest and the management have stated their intention to extend conversion as soon as the circumstances justify this being done.

The technological developments in the gas industry have produced a radical change in the methods of gas production at the Reading Gas Works over the last

few years. Indeed, it can be said that the change has been far more rapid than was at first envisaged. The traditional method of producing gas from coal has been reduced drastically and gas from this source now only represents a small proportion of the total produced at the Works. The quantities of natural gas imported from the Sahara is now making a useful contribution to gas supplies. The Segas plant is being converted to the "Uniflow" system which is a more modern process, and there is now a direct L.P.G. pipeline from Fawley which supplies feedstock for gas production. Little nuisance has been reported from this source during the year.

Complaints relating to fumes from diesel cars in the vicinity of the West Reading Station were repeated again this year. The matter was again taken up with British Railways who have promised to look into the problem. This is another instance of how new developments create new problems.

Air Pollution Investigation

The measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations by means of volumetric instrument continued at Bristol and West House, Corporation Yard, Great Knollys Street, and Southcote Clinic during the year. All these instruments have been converted to the multi-port type which now means that they require attention once per week only, when 7 smoke stains and 7 bottles are collected for assessment of the concentrations. The average levels of smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations at the three sites are shown on page 104 and the respective smoke pollution levels are shown in graphic form on page 107.

All the results obtained from the three instruments and relating to both sulphur dioxide and smoke, were forwarded to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for general assessment and for use in connection with the national survey on air pollution. So far as the figures go, as could be expected, pollution in January and February, 1964, was somewhat less than for the same months in 1963, undoubtedly due mainly to the milder conditions experienced this year. Last year we had very severe Winter conditions. It has been noted from the Annual Report of the Department of Geography, The University, Reading, relating to meteorological observations during 1964, that there were no exceptional climatic circumstances likely to materially affect the pollution figures, fogs being conspicuously absent.

The pattern of pollution intensity shown in graphical form on page 107, shows a similar outline to that of the previous year, although this year peaks are not of the same magnitude because of the more equable temperatures during the early and late months of the year. It would seem reasonable to conclude from the pattern of pollution shown throughout this and other years, that only a small proportion of the pollution—smoke and sulphur dioxide—arises directly from industrial processes. Most pollution undoubtedly arises from fuel burning for heating both in factories and residential property.

Records of pollution are of comparatively recent origin in Reading. It is therefore not possible to make any conclusive observations on the trend in pollution over the few years our instruments have been operating.

Co-operation with the University's Geography Department has continued during the year and the meteorological data contained in the monthly and annual meteorological report, is very much appreciated and is most helpful. In addition to the work being done by this department and the Geography Department of the Reading University, an industrial firm is also carrying out research into the dispersal of S.O.₂ into the atmosphere of Reading. The results of this latter experiment, which is quite extensive, will be looked upon with interest. Having regard to the investigations which have been undertaken in the town over the last three or four years, once results can be finalised we should have a well-informed and detailed picture of the town's pollution.

DAILY ESTIMATION OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE BY VOLUMETRIC APPARATUS

MONTH	BRISTOL & WEST HOUSE				CORPORATION YARD				SOUTHCOTE CLINIC			
	SMOKE		SULPHUR DIOXIDE		SMOKE		SULPHUR DIOXIDE		SMOKE		SULPHUR DIOXIDE	
	Max.	Ave.	Max.	Ave.	Max.	Ave.	Max.	Ave.	Max.	Ave.	Max.	Ave.
1964												
JANUARY . . .	344	135	575	173	245	135	500	130	243	94	505	129
FEBRUARY . . .	392	139	372	182	243	112	232	117	222	84	201	89
MARCH . . .	332	88	599	162	197	72	452	75	125	49	270	60
APRIL . . .	204	37	204	82	163	47	101	37	140	22	116	37
MAY . . .	58	31	140	65	56	23	102	29	24	11	63	30
JUNE . . .	84	26	183	59	82	28	78	22	36	11	100	29
JULY . . .	47	25	77	49	85	24	54	27	24	10	50	33
AUGUST . . .	109	28	77	22	79	27	55	24	55	11	48	28
SEPTEMBER . . .	138	33	133	54	108	32	56	22	107	19	96	36
OCTOBER . . .	245	93	283	141	226	88	151	55	185	65	253	76
NOVEMBER . . .	161	79	313	133	182	91	108	52	142	53	179	76
DECEMBER . . .	289	108	452	183	235	113	360	94	215	72	253	75
Annual Average Values:	1964	69		109	66			57	42			58
	1963	84		126	74			73	52			71

Smoke Control Areas

The position with regard to smoke control areas at the end of the year, was as follows:—

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

No.	Name	Area in Acres	Number of Premises	Stage	Date of operation
1	Coley Park . .	106	477	Confirmed	June 1st, 1959
2	Broad St./Friar St. .	15	333	Confirmed	June 1st, 1960
3	Coley Park Extension .	45	155	Confirmed	Dec. 1st, 1961
4	Burghfield Road .	22	174	Confirmed	Nov. 1st, 1961
5	Old Southcote Lodge .	114	81	Confirmed	Nov. 1st, 1961
6	Broad Street/Mill Lane	29	278	Confirmed	Nov. 1st, 1961
7	Burghfield Road/ Holybrook Crescent .	30	44	Confirmed	Nov. 1st, 1961
8	Cockney Hill/ Prospect Park .	234	589	Confirmed	Nov. 1st, 1963
9	Southcote . .	454	1,500	Confirmed	Sept. 1st, 1965
10	Bath Road . .	290	1,300	Declared in principle	
TOTAL . .		1,339	4,931		

Fireplace adaptations in the Reading No. 8 (Cockney Hill/Prospect Park) Smoke Control Area were completed during the year. Some delays were experienced in the delivery of fuel burning appliances, a matter which has been taken up with the fireplace manufacturers and the Coal Utilisation Council. The local coal dealers have been most helpful in the implementation of Smoke Control Areas—by maintaining supplies, and, where householders have inadvertently over-stocked with bituminous coal, dealers have co-operated by replacing it with smokeless fuel.

There seems little doubt that, so far as the public is concerned, they are largely converted to smokeless fuel burning. The general trend outside Smoke Control Areas is also towards a greater use of smokeless fuel.

Mention was made in the report last year of the issue in December, 1963, of the White Paper—"Domestic Fuel Supplies and the Clean Air Policy". It was stated in this report that whereas, up to that time, it had been possible nearly everywhere to rely on gas-coke as the main smokeless fuel for use in the ordinary improved open grate, in consequence of the technological development in the gas industry, there will be little further increase in the production of gas-coke, and in some areas production was already beginning to decline. It was therefore emphasized that open grate gas-coke could no longer be regarded as the main replacement of open coal in future Smoke Control Areas although, in some localities, supplies of open grate gas-coke may still be available for this purpose. It was stated that sufficient supplies of solid smokeless fuels for use in the improved open grate will continue to be available to

meet the needs of those living in areas already subject to smoke control, including areas covered by Smoke Control Orders confirmed by the Minister but not yet in operation. This was an interesting development so far as Reading was concerned as Area No. 9 was with the Minister for confirmation when the Circular was issued, having been prepared on the basis that open grate gas-coke would be available. However, in April, 1964, the Minister confirmed the Order.

As, in the light of the new fuel circumstances, every encouragement had to be given to householders to choose a space heating appliance other than the improved open fire, it was necessary to make some amendments to the original estimates to meet these new contingencies. After very careful consideration of the new situation and the increased costs likely to be incurred, the Council decided to put back the date of operation for one year which has consequently given two years in which to carry out the adaptations and meet the cost.

In the case of Council houses, the Housing Committee decided to carry on with adaptations which mainly involved the installation of gas ignition—on the solid fuel improved open fire basis, at the same time agreeing that where tenants wished to install an appliance other than smokeless solid fuel, they were free to do so.

Whilst the new fuel situation is likely to increase costs of adaptations where these are necessary, there is an increasing tendency on the part of householders outside Smoke Control Areas to go over to the wired and piped fuels as well as closed stoves capable of burning hard coke, and other solid smokeless fuels. This will not only have the effect of equalizing demand over the whole range of smokeless fuels—solid, liquid, gas and electricity—but will gradually reduce the degree of adaptations necessary as smoke control work proceeds.

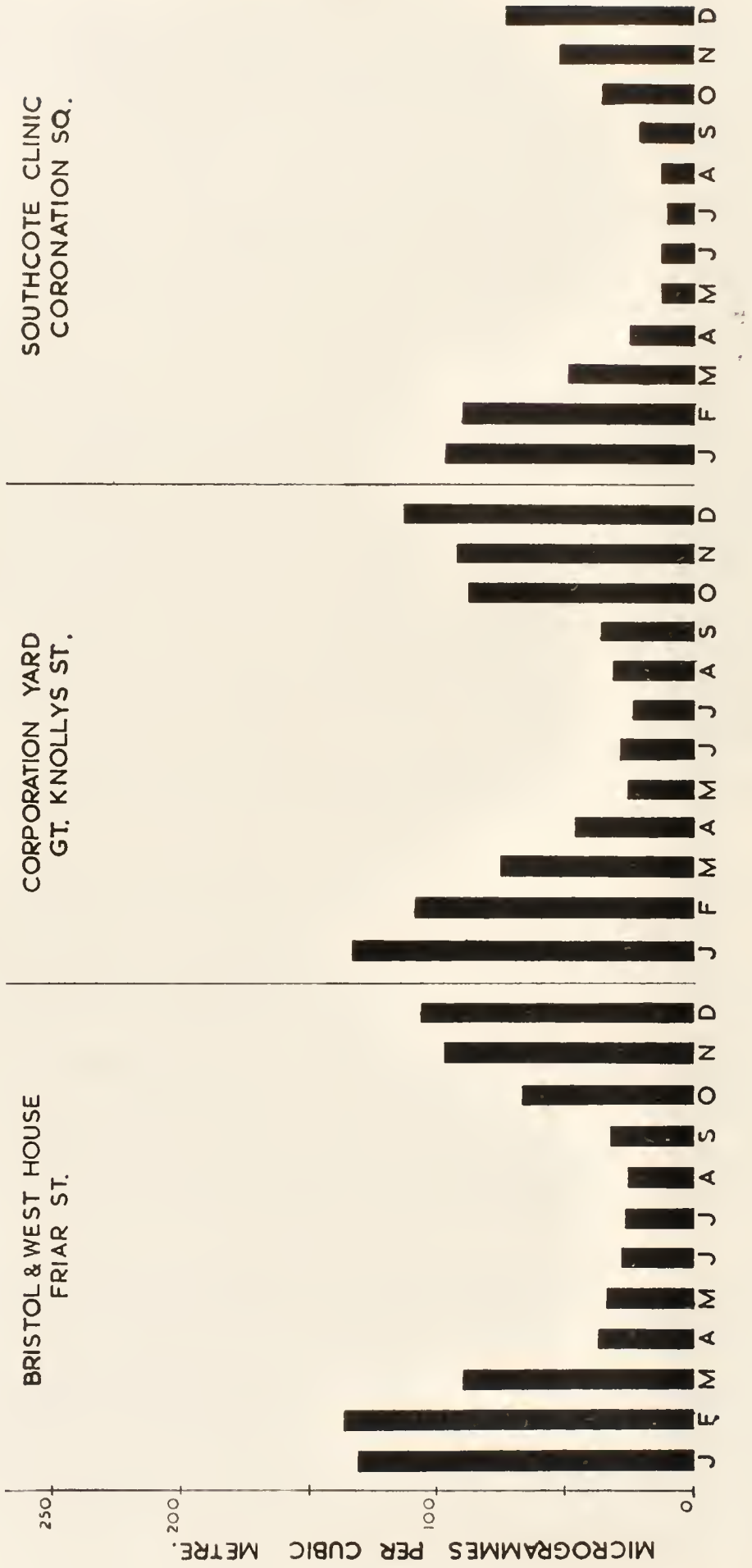
Later in the year, Section 95 of the Housing Act, 1964, brought about further changes in Smoke Control Area procedure. The major alterations are:—

- (a) The definition of “new dwelling” for grant purposes applies now to dwellings, the construction of which was commenced on or after August 16th, 1964.
- (b) Where it is found after consultation with fuel producers and distributors that insufficient supplies of solid smokeless fuels will be available, installation of improved open fires will not attract grant. In such cases, alternative means of heating as, for instance, openable stoves, under-floor draught open fires, gas fires, electric night storage heaters or fixed oil heaters, will be required.
- (c) Grant may now be paid towards the provision of means of ignition where no ancillary works are involved.
- (d) Direct-acting electrical space heaters will no longer be eligible for grant, as tending to impose undue strain on available fuel resources by consumption of electricity at times when it is generally used.

As a result of this legislation, some 119 dwellings within the No. 9 Area constructed between July 15th, 1956 and August 15th, 1964, were no longer defined as new dwellings and became accordingly eligible for grant towards the cost of necessary works of adaptation.

In view of the staff position, work done on the Reading No. 10 (Bath Road) Area, which has been declared in principle, was very limited. It is hoped, however, to put this forward for confirmation next year.

AVERAGE MONTHLY SMOKE CONCENTRATION FOR 1964 BY DAILY SMOKE FILTER.



4. NUISANCES AND WORK UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Some 592 complaints were received by the department during the year from residents in the Borough concerning many matters. 1249 informal notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances which were not concerned with housing defects and which are referred to in the section on housing.

Some 480 complaints concerning obstructed and defective sewers and drains were dealt with during the year, in connection with which some 1,901 drains or sewers were cleared and/or repaired. 3,966 visits were paid by Public Health Inspectors during the year on matters concerning drainage. There were 347 cases where the owners themselves were required to do the necessary work.

It was necessary again during the year, on occasions, to call out workmen on Saturday afternoons and Sundays to deal with obstructed drains as a matter of urgency. Despite staff difficulties, the Borough Surveyor's Department and in some cases, the Building Manager's Department, were most helpful. This weekend service is greatly appreciated by those in trouble at these times. A number of requests were received, mainly in respect of owner/occupied property, for the Corporation to repair private drains and sewers under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1961, which empowers local authorities to do the work and recover the costs. However difficult it might be to lay on such a service, it is basic public health work which should be done just as far as circumstances allow. The Corporation have a special responsibility in this matter.

It is pleasing to report that there have been no further complaints in recent times relating to grit and dust from the Gas Works, or concerning noxious discharges coming within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. As with the work relating to the Clean Air Act, there were joint consultations with the Alkali Works Inspector on matters of mutual concern, which have always proved most helpful.

The Noise Abatement Act, 1960, has been in operation now approximately 4 years. There is no doubt that with the increasing tempo of modern life, complaints relating to noise and vibrations are increasing and are likely to increase still more.

We received during the year under review complaints about musical groups, pneumatic drills, an electricity sub-station, traffic noise and noise from mechanical appliances; loudspeakers in factories, noise from mechanical ventilating systems, barking of dogs. Many complaints are very difficult to establish and numerous visits are often necessary to determine whether or not complaints are justified and that the noise is over threshold limits. In the cases where the Noise Abatement Act applied, letters were sent to the offending people with reasonably satisfactory results. The late-night noise (or music) from the musical groups, ceased; sound baffles were provided for pneumatic drills, and in the case of one nuisance from drills, hours of operation were agreed. A vehicle lift manufacturer was approached in connection with noise from a vehicle tail-lift. This matter is still under consideration; whilst in two other cases, one relating to ventilating shaft noise and another to loudspeakers, the nuisances were abated after discussion with the management of the establishments concerned.

Noise is subjective in its effect, and what offends one may be quite acceptable to another. In one or two instances, although complainants were persistent in their complaints, we were satisfied, after investigation by our Sound Level Meter, that the noise did not rise to general nuisance proportions.

The Sound Level Meter has proved essential in the investigation of noise and vibration complaints. It provides a direct reading of sound level over the range 24dB to 140 dB, and includes octave band filters so that frequency analysis can be made.

Disinfection and Disinfestation—Insanitary Premises

It was necessary to treat 12 verminous persons during the year, most of whom were people of a vagrant type. In all these cases, the home or lodging circumstances

were investigated and appropriate treatment applied. The Common Lodging House was regularly inspected and treated once monthly. The Salvation Army personnel in charge of this establishment, kept a watchful eye on conditions likely to affect public health and collaborated with the department in every way.

A total of 146 complaints relating to verminous premises was received, in connection with which 354 visits and inspections were made. The number of cases of bed bugs was 42 compared with 68 last year. In addition, we dealt with a fair number of fly, cockroach and flea infestations, as well as other miscellaneous insects. The Director of the Museum was again extremely helpful in assisting with the identification of specimens. The life history of insects is particularly important in deciding the type of treatment to be applied. There are occasions, too, when specimens resembling insects of agricultural importance, for example the Colorado beetle, need to be identified as a matter of urgency.

A number of complaints relating to insanitary premises were again dealt with during the year. Where appropriate, the Domestic Help Service and Welfare Officers were brought in. We have found the Domestic Help Service particularly helpful and I have no doubt that but for their valuable work, many more cases would have to be dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Act.

As rehousing progresses in the redevelopment areas, we are finding vacant houses being used as doss houses by vagrants. The Housing Committee have given instructions that houses under their control shall be promptly barricaded against trespassers when they become vacant, and that the houses should be demolished as soon as circumstances allow. Private owners of vacant property which has also been used in this way, are required to make the premises safe against trespassers until demolition can take place.

Common Lodging House

Over 46 inspections were made to the Common Lodging House during the year. Having regard to the age and structural condition of the property, the Salvation Army are maintaining a praiseworthy standard, although this does not mean that conditions are really satisfactory. It is hoped that the new Common Lodging House will be constructed and brought into operation as soon as possible.

Infectious Diseases

As it is the practice now for most cases of infectious diseases to be investigated by medical or nursing staff, the work of Inspectors in connection with this matter is very small. Apart from the need to visit houses for the purpose of disinfection only 6 inspections of premises were made during the year concerned with the notification of infectious disease. Defective conditions were taken up with the owners and notices requiring repairs served as necessary.

Offensive Trades

The offensive trades established within the Borough comprise: 1 blood drier and 1 rag and bone dealer. Three visits were paid and general conditions associated with the business investigated. Conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

Movable Dwellings

There were two large licensed sites in the town at the end of the year, one at Norcot and one down Scours Lane. With respect to the Norcot site, a "run-down"

clause was included in the licensing conditions on the occasion of the last renewal. As caravans become vacant they are not relet and at the end of the year approximately 27 caravans remained out of the original total of 70. Re-accommodation of the remaining caravan dwellers is proceeding. When vacated, the site will be used for permanent development.

So far as the Scours Lane site is concerned, conditions have been imposed requiring water carriage drainage, W.C.'s., and other modern amenities. No progress was made during the year on these improvements.

Swimming Baths

The five main school baths situated at Reading School, Leighton Park School, St. Joseph's Convent, Queen Anne's Girls' School and the Abbey Girls' School, were operated satisfactorily during the year; all have automatic filtration and chlorine dosage plants installed.

There are also a number of learner pools, at the Hill Primary, Grove School, the No. IX School, Ashmead, Southcote Primary, St. John's, Geoffrey Field School and Grovelands Primary. Four of these pools have automatic filtration and chlorine dosage plants. The two outdoor and one indoor public swimming baths in Reading continued in use.

During the year, 28 samples of water were obtained and submitted for examination from public swimming baths, and 50 from school swimming baths. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Drinking Water

37 samples of water were obtained from private Wells used for drinking purposes or in connection with food trading establishments. 8 samples of public Mains water were obtained during the year. These were satisfactory.

Public Conveniences

Attention was focused during the year on the facilities available to the public in the Public Conveniences and the Health, Highways and Parks Committees gave consideration to the matter. Steps are being taken to improve facilities, particularly for hand washing, just as quickly as circumstances allow.

Lead in Toys

Complaints were received during the year alleging that foreign toys being sold to the public, had been finished with a paint of high lead content and that, as a result, these might be dangerous to children. This matter had been given publicity in another part of the country where it was alleged there had been a case of lead poisoning attributed to this source. Numerous visits were paid to shops in the town, and the local Fair, but none of these toys could be found here. The use of lead paints on children's toys has been the subject of investigation and a report by the Home Office.

5. GENERAL

Rodent Control. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During 1964, Warfarin was used almost exclusively for the destruction of rats and mice. It is one of the anti-coagulant rodenticides and although it may have some disadvantages, it is undoubtedly most effective, particularly as there is no need for pre-baiting and there is no bait shyness as is the case with arsenic or zinc phosphide. Mention has been made by some authorities of instances where rats have been found to have developed immunity towards Warfarin. This has not been the case in Reading, but we have found two cases where mice were apparently unaffected after eating the baits and it was found necessary to use zinc phosphide. The infestation was eventually cleared up satisfactorily in this way. There is no apparent reason why in these cases the mice should show such resistance to Warfarin; there is no evidence they had access to anything containing vitamin "K", which would have counteracted the effect of Warfarin. Furthermore, we have had completely successful results with the use of Warfarin in similar infestations with mice in the neighbourhood.

We have continued to use baiting trays in the majority of cases. This facilitates the removal of unused bait and enables the rodent operators to keep the baits away from domestic pets, etc.

During 1964, 9,782 visits were made to premises in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Altogether, 323 business premises and 1,303 private dwellings were found to be infested with rats or mice. Where it has been considered necessary, following a complaint, the adjoining premises were surveyed and baits laid at strategic points in order to eliminate all the rats and mice in the neighbourhood. When it was suspected that a drain or sewer had been the source of infestation, the District Public Health Inspector tested the drains. During the year, 134 such inspections were made, and in 13 cases defective drains were discovered. After the necessary repairs were carried out, the infestation was eradicated in each instance.

The main sewers were again treated during the year. Although the treatments were confined largely to the Spring and the Autumn, baiting was spread over several months in order not to interfere with the normal work of rodent control. The results of the sewer treatment continues to be most encouraging and details are as follows:—

<i>Manholes Tested</i>	<i>Manholes Showing Take</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>
291	64	736

Whereas manholes are originally tested with sausage rusk, Warfarin has again been used in the treatment of sewers, in a bait consisting of pinhead oatmeal with the addition of para-nitrophenol to keep the baits in good condition in the damp atmosphere of the sewers.

Routine inspections are still carried out at the refuse tips, allotments, etc., and in general conditions have been found to be reasonably satisfactory.

The treatment for domestic premises for rodent control is carried out free of charge, but payment is required when work is carried out in business premises. During the financial year 1963-64 the income in respect of this work was £295 compared with £197 for the previous financial year.

Other Pests

In addition to the rodent control work carried out by this section, some 87 complaints were investigated concerning wasps, squirrels, moles, pigeons, rabbits, foxes, etc. Of these, 71 were in respect of wasps nests. Payment is required in connection with this work, and during the financial year 1963/64, the income was £33.

RODENT CONTROL

Premises inspected as a Result of:— A.B.C.	Private Dwellings	Business Premises including Food Stores and Kitchens	Corporation Property including Pigsties, etc.	Agricultural Property	Total
A. Notification	597	195	28	—	820
B. Survey	1,824	1,731	180	17	3,752
C. Other purposes	15	11	—	—	26
Total No. of Inspections, including re-inspections ...	6,019	2,492	303	39	8,853
Number of Infested properties treated	1,304	219	34	8	1,565
Number of Rats picked up ...	178	60	8	4	250
Estimated kill—Rats ...	1,654	25	74	25	1,778
Number of Mice picked up ...	117	57	5	—	179
Estimated Kill—Mice ...	615	318	38	—	971

SEWER MAINTENANCE

No. of manholes tested:—291 No. of manholes showed take:—64

Factories Act, 1961

There is an increase in the number of factories registered during the year—646, as against 615 last year. 431 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors. These premises have been kept in a reasonably satisfactory manner during the year and requests by Inspectors have, in the main, been promptly dealt with. It was necessary to serve 17 written notices during the year. The list of outworkers received twice yearly from employers in accordance with Section 110 of the Act, returned 72 outworkers who were principally engaged in making wearing apparel. Of these, 15 were referred to other local authorities. 57 were in the Borough and the premises were visited by the Public Health Inspectors.

All plans of proposed factories and other buildings, submitted to the Borough Council for approval under the Planning and Building Byelaws, are examined by this department from the point of view of the Factories Act and the Public Health Act, and as regards potential nuisance. Under the Clean Air Act, information is also required on fuel burning appliances in the planning stage so that we can ensure that the provisions of the Clean Air Act will be complied with.

Attention was paid to the conditions in canteens and kitchens attached to factories in the town, with particular reference to the standard of hygiene, amenities and structural conditions.

The tables below give details of inspections of factories and are the particulars contained in the annual report to the Ministry of Labour and National Service:—

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power ...	52	57	2
Factories with mechanical power ...	594	374	15
	646	431	17

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	1
Sanitary Conveniences:— Unsuitable or defective	26	24	—	16
	27	25	—	17

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are 5 premises on the register where filling materials listed in Section 32 of the Act, are used in the manufacture of bedding and other upholstered articles. 11 inspections were made of these premises and all samples of filling materials submitted for examination were reported as satisfactory.

Fabrics (Misdescription) Regulations, 1959

3 samples of children's wear were submitted for examination during the year and were found to conform to the fire resistant requirements of the above Regulations.

Places of Public Entertainment

7 visits were paid to various places of public entertainment in the town. No complaints were made by the public in respect of these establishments during the year.

Shops Act

Five hundred and ninety-eight routine visits were made to all types of shops in the town.

From August 1st, 1964, the Public Health Inspectors were requested to investigate accidents reported under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, which came into operation on that date. 41 visits were paid to premises for the purpose of inspection and the general enquiries which were necessary in relation to the 18 accidents reported. Numerous requests for advice on the health aspects of this new Act were received from Architects and others concerned with this type of development and building.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Four licences were issued under the above Act in 1964 and a number of routine inspections made of the premises, all of which were reasonably satisfactory.

Mr. H. K. Thorpe, B.SC. (ENG.), A.M.I.C.E., M.I.MUN.E., A.M.T.P.I., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, who has been good enough to supply the following information:—

House Refuse Collection

During 1964 the collection of house refuse has continued on a once-weekly basis. Additional collections have been given to special premises such as the local Hospitals, multi-storey flats, cafés and food shops in the Town Centre. The service has been maintained by 16 refuse collection vehicles and 70 employees.

The following table shows the quantity of refuse collected, with the total mileage engaged on the collection:—

Quarter ending	1964		1963	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
March 31st	11,888	34,922	11,378	34,818
June 30th	11,620	41,781	10,604	36,905
September 30th	11,360	42,452	10,877	38,026
December 31st	11,840	43,774	11,668	38,953
Totals	46,708	162,929	44,527	148,702

Trade refuse is collected at the same time as domestic refuse and at such other times as arranged between the trader and the Corporation. Facilities are available for traders within the Borough to deliver trade refuse direct to the Refuse Disposal Tip by arrangement with the Corporation.

Street Cleansing

Following a Work Study investigation the old single beat manual system of street sweeping has been replaced in parts of the Borough by a gang system, with gangs of four sweepers and one ganger using an electrically propelled hand-truck.

The following is a comparative table of the number of employees engaged on street cleansing:—

		1964	1963
Men	. .	43	51
Boys	. .	1	1

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the Borough and the mileage of vehicles:—

Quarter ending	1964		1963	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
March 31st . . .	915	4,989	898	4,988
June 30th . . .	932	4,868	886	4,846
September 30th . . .	920	4,847	870	4,820
December 31st . . .	1,022	4,975	964	4,963
Totals . . .	3,789	19,679	3,618	19,617

Street Gulley Cleansing

23,175 street gulleys were emptied and sealed with fresh water by mechanically-operated vehicles.

The following table shows the comparative tonnage removed during the years 1964-1963:—

Quarter ending	1964		1963	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Miles</i>
March 31st . . .	562	2,396	568	2,542
June 30th . . .	625	2,392	649	2,596
September 30th . . .	734	2,410	749	2,398
December 31st . . .	726	2,353	727	2,523
Totals . . .	2,647	9,551	2,693	10,059

Cesspool Emptying

All domestic cesspools are emptied by mechanical cesspool emptying vehicles strictly on a rota schedule. Since the charge for this vehicle has been removed the work has more than doubled.

Sewage Purification

The total volume of sludge purified during the year increased to 2,599,000,000 gallons (averaging just over 7,000,000 gallons per day. The volume of sludge produced also increased and, therefore, strained the existing sludge treatment facilities. Some 10,000,000 gallons of sludge had to be impounded in sludge lagoons.

It is hoped that progress will be made during 1965 to provide further sludge treatment plant, but the decision on the method to be adopted has yet to be taken

Sewage

New houses and flats connected to sewers during 1964 (including Corporation houses)	871
Houses not connected to main sewers in 1963	304
New cesspools (Ronth Lane and Chapel Hill)	2
	<hr/>
	306
Cesspools eliminated	13
	<hr/>
Number of houses not connected to main sewers	293
	<hr/>

Owing to the completion of the new Grove Road and Warren Foul Sewers seven and six cesspools respectively have been abandoned.

The construction of new foul sewers in Peppard Road and St. Michael's Road to relieve flooding has been commenced.

Swimming and Slipper Baths

The swimming baths were more popular than ever owing to the fine summer and all previous attendance figures were exceeded. The two slipper bath installations, however, have shown reduced attendances.

The number of persons using these facilities during 1964 were:—

Arthur Hill Memorial Baths—Swimming Pool	181,708
Slipper Baths	4,144
King's Meadow Baths	42,748
Coley Bathing Place	24,114
West Reading Bathing Place	9,749
Jesse Terrace Slipper Baths	13,112

HOUSING

Mr. W. V. Smith, A.R.I.B.A., Borough Architect, has been good enough to supply the following information.

In 1964, 154 dwellings, including houses, flats and bungalows were handed over to the Council.

At Coronation Square, Southcote, the contract for 31 dwellings for aged persons and 6 for paraplegic persons was completed and handed over.

The third and fourth contracts for 65 and 71 dwellings, on Bulmershe Estate, Woodley were completed. Work was started on the fifth contract to be let on this site for 44 houses and 36 garages.

A contract for 28 one bedroom flats for aged persons and childless couples was commenced at Wensley Road, Coley Park Estate.

The first houses, in a contract for 79 new type three bedroom terrace houses, are completed, and a contract for 20 two storey flats for aged persons was started at Corwen Road, Tilehurst.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Part III and IV

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

The purpose-built Home at Southcote, commenced in 1963, was handed over in November, 1964, and officially opened by the Mayor (Councillor Mrs. Alexandra Sturrock, J.P.) on December 15th, 1964. As a mark of respect and in appreciation of his services to the Borough, this Home was named after the late Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Edward Hughes.

The married couples quarters which were incorporated in this building on an experimental basis, have been found to very successful and, in fact, there is now a waiting list for this type of accommodation. Plans for two further Homes of a similar pattern are well in hand, and it is hoped that work will commence on the Burghfield Road unit later in 1965.

The demand for Part III accommodation still persists and the waiting list at the end of the year would have been much higher had it not been for the opening of the new Home. At December 31st, 1964, there were 20 males and 85 females on the waiting list, and of these 1 man and 18 women were in hospital.

Admissions during 1964 are given in the following table:—

Hostel	Transfers from other Homes		Source of Admissions							
			Hospital		Own Home		For Short stay		Total new admission (permanent)	
	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.	M.	W.
Woodlands	—	1	2	10	3	10	2	—	5	20
Wychcotes	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	4
Warren House	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Parkhurst	1	—	5	—	11	—	6	—	16	—
Southern Hill	—	—	4	—	9	—	1	—	13	—
Arthur Clark Home	—	1	—	10	—	4	—	10	—	14
Dyson's Wood Hostel	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	4
Alice Jenkins Home	—	—	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	12
Edward Hughes Home	—	1	—	—	1	10	—	1	1	10
	1	4	11	30	24	35	9	11	35	65
	5		41		59		20		100	

There was a general all-round increase, and we were able to extend the short-stay scheme. Many letters of thanks were received from people who were able to enjoy a holiday whilst their relatives were cared for. Daily residents were also taken at Parkhurst, Alice Jenkins, Edward Hughes and Arthur Clark Homes, and a number of persons who were living alone were admitted over Christmas.

Once again, I have to report that the staff situation is most acute. Despite the insertion of national advertisements we have still failed to attract any Assistant

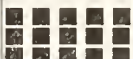



THE "EDWARD HUGHES" HOME

ntons, and great difficulty is being experienced in providing the necessary coverage
en Superintendents wish to take their leave. In an area of full employment such
this it is practically impossible to recruit staff. One cannot seem to find a solution
the problem, and can only hope that, from time to time, a few dedicated persons
ll continue to come forward. Staff houses will be erected adjacent to our new Homes,
d it has also been possible for the Homes to be sited near to estates, which, it is
ped, will provide a catchment area for labour.

Coach outings, visits to the theatre, etc., were arranged, and garden fetes and "at Homes" were held at Dysons Wood, Alice Jenkins and Arthur Clark Homes. Whist Drives were held during the winter season, and credit must be given to the hard-working members of the Central Entertainments Committee for this, which was cheerfully done by them. The sum of £293 5s. 2d. was raised, and of this amount 57 0s. 7d. was used for the benefit of the residents.

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION—December 31st, 1964

			Persons (exclusive of staff) residing in					
			Homes in the possession of the Council whose normal bed complement for residential accommodation is:—			Premises vested in the Minister as hospitals	Accommodation provided on behalf of the Council by voluntary organisations	Total
			Less than 35	35-70	over 70			
Not materially Handicapped	elderly	M. F.	1 48	2 99 113	3	4	5 5 6	6 104 167
		others	M. F.		3 1			3 1
	Blind	elderly	M. F.		6 4			2	6 7
others		M. F.					1	1
Deaf	elderly	M. F.		4			1	5
	others	M. F.					1	1
Epileptic	elderly	M. F.		1 3			1	1 5
	others	M. F.					1	1
Others physically Handicapped	elderly	M. F.	2	2 13			4	2 19
	others	M. F.		2			3	3 2
Mentally Handicapped	elderly	M. F.		1				1
		F.	2					2
	others	M. F.		2				2
Grand Total			56	252			25	333
Number of homes in which these persons reside.			3	6				9

	Elderly	Others
Persons accommodated on behalf of other local authorities (included in Table A above)	3	
Persons accommodated as residents by other local authorities on behalf of the Council (not included above)	4	

Temporary Accommodation

The accommodation at Woodlands has been used to the full and admissions have usually been of long stay. Some intermediate accommodation was made available to us and quickly allocated to the most deserving. It is pleasing to note that, in the main, most tenancies so allocated have been successful. Wayfarers and other casual admissions are still being accommodated in the porch.

The following table gives details of this accommodation:—

	M.	W.	C.	Total
Admissions	1	51	64	116
Maintenance Days	12	2,146	5,151	7,309
Remaining on December 31st, 1964 —		5	14	19

SECTION 22—CHARGES FOR ACCOMMODATION

The standard charge was increased as from August 1st, 1964, and this then became £7 6s. 0d. per week. Once again, the increase was due to salary and wage awards. The running costs for the Homes remained at the same level as before.

The following amounts were collected on assessments made against residents in accordance with the scale in use during the year:—

	£	s.	d.
Woodlands	9,790	19	5
Wychcotes	1,980	14	1
Warren House	3,119	6	9
Parkhurst	7,326	11	11
Southern Hill	7,522	18	4
Arthur Clark Home	5,812	3	7
Dysons Wood Hostel	2,632	10	10
Alice Jenkins Home	5,796	17	8
Edward Hughes Home	40	9	0
	<hr/> £44,022	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 7

SECTION 24—AUTHORITY LIABLE FOR THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

There has been no need to refer any case to the Minister for a decision, mutual agreement having been reached in all cases that have arisen.

SECTION 25—POWER OF NATIONAL ASSISTANCE BOARD TO ORDER THE PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN URGENT CASES

Relationship with officers of the National Assistance Board has, once again, been entirely satisfactory. Officers of both departments are in close co-operation and have been able to assist one another in providing accommodation in any cases that have arisen.

SECTION 26—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION IN PREMISES MAINTAINED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The number of persons residing in special Homes and chargeable to the County Borough are as follows:—

	M.	F.
Aged Infirm	6	7
Blind	1	5
Cripples	5	4
Deaf and Dumb	1	—
Epileptic	2	1
Spastic	—	—

SECTION 29—WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

(a) Deaf and Dumb

The arrangements that have operated in previous years with the Oxford Diocesan Association for the Deaf continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year. No developments to report.

The number of deaf persons on the register is as follows:—

	Under 16		16—64		65 and over		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
With Speech	23	16	8	10	2	—	33	26
Without Speech	—	—	29	27	6	6	35	33
Total	23	16	37	37	8	6	68	59

I am indebted to Mr. Powell, the Missioner for the Deaf, for the following information on his work.

Religious

Church Services for the Deaf are held in St. Mark's Chapel at the Centre, each Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. These are well attended, the average being 30.

The following Special Services were held:—

Good Friday	
Church Rally	May 24th
Anniversary	September 6th
Harvest Festival	September 27th
Lessons and Carols	December 20th
Christmas Day	Holy Communion

Mothers Union Branch

Branch meets fortnightly in the afternoon. The meetings take the form of Services, Games and Handicraft sessions. The members also join the activities of the Reading Deanary M.U., attending Services and functions. Members also make articles for money raising events connected with the Centre.

The annual outing was to Weymouth on August 21st.

Placement

Employment was found for 7 women and 6 men. Systematic visits are made to places of employment and emergency calls made to smooth out difficulties.

Social

The Christmas Party was held at the Heelas Restaurant on December 19th.

The Annual Outing was to Southend on June 20th.

There have been numerous coach outings to other Deaf Centres, to play in indoor games leagues, to the seaside and places of interest.

Members take part in "hearing" leagues of sport. Two teams bowl at the Excel Ten Pin Bowl on Friday evenings.

Young People's Club

Meetings take the form of lectures, further education and visits to places of interest.

The members went on a two week touring holiday of Scotland during July.

Welfare

The elderly deaf had one week's holiday at Exmouth in June.

The deaf have been helped with all kinds of problem, large and small. Owing to the difficulty of communication, interpretation has been given in Courts of Law, Hospitals, Doctors' surgeries and whenever needed. The deaf are visited in their homes, hospitals, mental hospitals, etc.

(b) Hard of Hearing

Arrangements with the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association continued as in previous years. On December 31st, 1964 the Register was as follows:—

						M.	F.
Children under 16	.	.	.	.	.	—	—
Persons aged 16-64	.	.	.	.	.	13	25
Persons aged 65 and over			.	.	.	12	27

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hammond, Joint Hon. Secretaries of the Reading and District Hard of Hearing Association, report as follows:—

We are happy to report quite a successful financial year, thanks to the sale of over £500 worth of Christmas Cards and Calendars by the members which showed a

very good profit even if it meant a great deal of hard work—mentally and physically (they are heavy to carry about).

We have also had a Bring and Buy Sale, Harvest Supper, etc., amongst the items on our varied programme. Interesting Talks (illustrated) have also been given. Whist Drives, etc., still seem very popular and we had several Outings last summer. About 20 of our members attended the Southern Rally at Margate in September. Lip reading has been carried on, with a qualified teacher once a month and we find, since we follow on the session with Bingo or Mime, it has been much better supported. Unfortunately, we are still unable to attract the younger hard of hearing people and the elderly gradually leave us, through ill health or death.

We have sent a good supply of leaflets to the E.N.T. Dept. at the Royal Berkshire Hospital who we find are most co-operative. So, we hope to recruit more members in due course.

We should mention that we ran a Grand Christmas Draw again this year and quite a number of tradespeople in the town responded to our appeal for prizes which were much appreciated.

Our sick visitors have been kept rather busy and our Benevolent Fund has been helpful.

(c) **Blind**

The Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind continued their efforts during the year to obtain further premises. It is hoped that next year the Committee's efforts will be finalised. Miss Lowe, the Welfare Officer for the Blind, who also acts as the Reading Secretary for the Association for the Welfare of the Blind supplied the following information:—

Registration of Blind people

On December 31st, 1964, there were 195 Blind people on the register, 77 males and 118 females. The age groups are as follows:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1-4 years	—	1	1
5-15 years	1	1	2
16-20 years	1	—	1
21-29 years	3	2	5
30-39 years	5	5	10
40-49 years	8	3	11
50-59 years	12	12	24
60-69 years	8	18	26
70-79 years	14	37	51
80 and over	25	39	64
	—	—	—
	77	118	195
	—	—	—

Age at which Blindness occurred

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	.	.	.	.	10	13	23
1-4 years	.	.	.	.	—	2	2
5-15 years	.	.	.	.	4	2	6
16-20 years	.	.	.	.	3	3	6
21-29 years	.	.	.	.	4	4	8
30-39 years	.	.	.	.	4	6	10
40-49 years	.	.	.	.	8	9	17
50-59 years	.	.	.	.	7	16	23
60-69 years	.	.	.	.	11	22	33
70-79 years	.	.	.	.	16	19	35
80 and over	.	.	.	.	10	22	32
					—	—	—
					77	118	195
					—	—	—

During the year there were twenty-five new registrations, eight transfers-in, nineteen deaths, one name removed from the register on improvement of vision and four transfers-out to other areas, resulting in an increase of nine on the total for 1963.

Of the twenty-five persons registered blind during the year eighteen are over 65 years of age, four younger people are diabetics, one man has left the district and the remaining two are young children.

Partially-sighted Register. There are 101 persons on this register at the end of the year, 36 males and 65 females. The age groups are as follows:—

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
5-15 years	.	.	.	.	4	6	10
16-20 years	.	.	.	.	2	1	3
21-49 years	.	.	.	.	4	8	12
50-64 years	.	.	.	.	7	9	16
65 years and over	.	.	.	.	19	41	60
					—	—	—
					36	65	101
					—	—	—

During the year there were thirteen additions to the register, two transfers-in, seventeen deaths, four removals to other districts and five registered as blind persons, resulting in a decrease of eleven.

The register is divided into the following groups for those aged 16 and over:—

Persons near and prospectively blind	.	.	.	21
Persons mainly industrially handicapped	.	.	.	11
Persons requiring observation only	.	.	.	59

Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially sighted Persons:—

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(1) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F (1) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :— ...				
(a) No treatment	4	—	—	13
(b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical or Optical) ...	4	4	—	12
(2) Number of cases at (1) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	2	4	—	11

Children

The blind baby girl is in a residential nursery, the boy has been at Dorton House School for a year and is doing very well. The older girl is at Condoval Hall but her additional handicap means progress is very slow. She derives a great deal of pleasure from playing on a piano and is able to pick out tunes she knows well.

Nine of the partially-sighted children are away at special schools. One boy's lack of useful vision is considered a hindrance to his progress and it is recommended that he be transferred to a school for blind children. The other little girl is at present being educated locally.

Home Workers

The machine knitter and piano tuner have remained our only homeworkers for another year. They both have sufficient work to keep them employed and the piano tuner helps us by seagrassing stools and chairs in his spare time.

Rehabilitation and Training

One man has been to Torquay for the rehabilitation course. His progress at braille and typing was very slow and though he favoured commercial work it was pointed out to him that his age (50 years) may well prevent him from reaching the required standard and the placing prospect if he were trained would be rather poor. He agreed, therefore, to give further consideration to the question of industrial employment. Unfortunately, no suitable job has been found for him so far. Two other men are unemployed and a third works only one day per week. The Resettlement Officer has approached several firms in the town and in some cases blind people have been given a trial but no permanent placing has resulted.

Employed Persons

Twenty-eight blind and partially-sighted persons are employed as shorthand-typists, telephone operators, factory operatives, piano tuners, masseurs, domestic workers, etc. Two partially-sighted young people have lost their jobs because their work was not satisfactory and it is proving difficult to find alternative work for them.

Walford House

This house with three furnished bed-sitting rooms provided by the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind has been fully occupied throughout the year. The three tenants are very happy there and much appreciate the facilities and companionship.

Shop Sales

The amount raised from Shop Sales totals £243, approximately the same as last year. Hand knitted socks are our chief selling line and seagrassed stools are another popular item. The workers are few in number as so many are too old to rely on for saleable articles. The annual handicraft competition held in April provides an incentive to all those who can make anything, and the money prizes are greatly appreciated.

Holiday Fund

This is a useful way of preparing for holidays. Ninety-eight blind people paid in amounts they could afford during the year and the Voluntary Association have granted £3 10s. 0d. to all those who have saved £6 10s. 0d. Arrangements were made for six people to go to Brighton and four to Boscombe but the majority went away with relatives or friends. Those for whom a holiday away from home is no longer possible have received an additional £1 at Christmas this year.

Relief

The Committee consider various individual needs at their monthly meetings and as far as possible, these are satisfied. All the Blind received a gift of coal, or an equivalent voucher to buy the special fuel they use, in October and 10s. each for Christmas.

Activities

The handicraft class meets weekly in a Church Hall and there is a games afternoon at Minster Street. The monthly afternoon social is very well attended due mainly to the assistance with transport we receive from the Friends of the Blind and the Rotarians.

The garden party arranged for June had to be cancelled on account of the weather but to compensate for this disappointment a party was held in the Town Hall in September.

During the year there were outings to the Pantomime at Windsor, to Newbury for an afternoon, to Basildon at the invitation of the Women's Institute and to Brighton and Bognor for days by the sea. The Christmas Party was held in Broad Street Congregational Church Hall.

(d) Report of Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon

Mr. G. T. Willoughby-Cashell, F.R.C.S., Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, has given the following report in connection with his work during the year:—

During 1964 thirty-eight patients were examined for admission to the Blind Register.

Ages

Under 20	20-40	40-60	60-70	70-80	80-100
4	3	1	8	7	15

	Blind	Not Blind	Partially-Sighted	Total
Cataract	3	—	1	4
Glaucoma	3	1	—	4
Myopia	2	1	2	5
Retinal Conditions	8	1	1	10
Degenerative Conditions	6	—	2	8
Congenital Conditions	1	—	3	4
Infective Conditions	—	—	2	2
Injuries	—	—	1	1
	23	3	12	38

Cataract

One of the three patients blind from cataract had since had a successful operation. The second had an occlusion of the central retinal artery in one eye as well as cataract and was suffering from cerebral arteric sclerosis. The third was aged 90 and had macula degeneration in addition to cataract.

Glaucoma

Of the three patients blind in this category one had absolute glaucoma in one eye and open angle glaucoma in the other eye. The latter eye still retained 6/36 vision following operation but with a small field. The second had open angle glaucoma in both eyes and would probably be operated on. The third patient had closed angle glaucoma—absolute in right eye and nearly so in the left. The patient who was not blind retained 6/18 vision in one eye following surgery.

Myopia

Two of the blind patients had bilateral cataract as well as myopia. One was not willing for operation and in the other case operation was not advisable as the patient had had macula haemorrhages. Both Partially Sighted patients had a retinal detachment in one eye.

Retinal Conditions

Five of the patients blind in this category had a diabetic retinopathy, two had a hypertensive retinopathy and one had a central retinal vein thrombosis. The Partially Sighted patient had an arterio sclerotic retinopathy.

Degenerative Conditions

All the patients, except one, were suffering from senile macula degeneration. One of the Partially Sighted patients had a reticular type of corneal epithelial dystrophy which is an hereditary condition.

Congenital Conditions

The blind patient was a baby with congenital cataracts, the mother having had rubella during pregnancy. One eye had been successfully operated upon and it was hoped perhaps to operate on the other eye in the future. Two of the Partially Sighted patients, one of whom had been born prematurely, had congenital cataracts. The third patient suffered from Marfan's disease and had bilateral dislocated lenses.

Infective Conditions

One of these patients had been successfully treated for trachoma and in addition had vascularising Keratitis. The other patient had conjunctivitis and was suffering from amblyopia with a functional overlay.

Injuries

This patient had lost the right eye from a war injury which had also damaged the left eye. The left eye had had a successful cataract extraction with a resultant vision of 6/12.

(c) Other Classes of Handicapped Persons

In this section, Mrs. Snow, the Welfare Officer, is responsible for the welfare services organised for disabled people. The tables show the register of disabled people in their age groups and classified indisabilities.

Total number assisted during the year	.	.	453
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Children under 16 years	.	14	6
Persons aged 16-64 years	.	165	135
Persons aged 65 and over	.	52	81
		—	—
		231	222
		—	—

Deceased during 1964—42

Discharges during 1964—12

Number of new cases referred during 1964—75

<i>Details of type of Assistance provided</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>
Appliances (aids, gadgets, special equipment)	65
Adaptations to Dwellings:—	
Indoor work 21 }	32
Outdoor work 11 }	
Council property 18 }	29
Non Council property 11 }	
Housing (including 9 rehoused)	13
Transport	87

Referred to Occupational Therapy Centre	93
Referred for Domiciliary Occupational Therapy	29
Referred to other Agencies (Home Work Scheme, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, National Assistance Board, Wireless for the Bedridden, British Red Cross Society, etc.)	65
Picture Loan Scheme	4
Convalescence	27
Financial Help (fares, etc.)	30
Social Activities	53
Welfare Visits (not included in above figures)	96
General Supervision	83

Ministry of Health

Classification of Disabilities on Register

A/E (Amputation)	16
F (Arthritis and Rheumatism)	98
G (Congenital Malformations and Deformities)	17
H/L (Disease of the Digestive and Genito-Urinary systems; of the heart or circulatory system; of the respiratory system (other than tuber- culosis) and of the skin)	91
Q/T (Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis of the upper and lower limbs and of the spine)	76
V (Organic nervous disease—Epilepsy, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia, sciatica, etc.)	156
U/W (Neuroses—Psychoses and other nervous and mental disorders not included in V)	6
X (Tuberculosis—respiratory)	5
Y (Tuberculosis—non-respiratory)	2
Z (Diseases and injuries not specified above)	7

Ministry of Health Grouping

Total of cases assisted

A=Capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions	58
B=Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions but mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops	23
C=Incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and not sufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops but capable of work at home	25

D=Incapable of or not available for work	327
E=Children under the age of 16 years whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the local authority have a general responsibility under Section 20 of the National Assistance Act 1948	20
	—
	453
	—

The needs of handicapped persons are little different from those of the community at large—a decent house—the opportunity to work—some leisure—a change of scene. The only difference being that without some initial help, these are sometimes difficult to achieve. It is this help, which we hope is being provided through the services administered by this section.

Housing

A good home is one in which a person can live happily, usefully, and carry out the jobs which arise in daily living. To achieve this, a handicapped person may need an existing house adapted to his special needs. Tenants of council and non-council houses are helped in this way.

Tenants of our specially designed flats have had a year to find out the additional benefits achieved by being able to build and eliminate at the start, the many physical difficulties which produce a bar to efficient and independent functioning by a handicapped person. Each family re-housed included one member confined to a wheel chair. Now they, as well as their families, have full use of the whole flat and all its services, instead of being limited to possibly one room or one part of the house. We hope to start building the next group of homes for disabled people early next year. These will be single storey houses, again incorporating ideas to facilitate movement and achieve maximum independence.

Work

The ability and opportunity to work is perhaps only fully appreciated when it is withheld from us.

The Occupational Therapy Centre continues to fill a real need in the lives of the many handicapped people of the area, who are capable of doing useful work, but for one reason or another cannot obtain outside employment. Although the actual number of people attending has not basically changed from last year, the average daily attendance is now 82, showing an increase in the amount of time each individual spends, many now attending four full days each week.

The total money received from firms for work undertaken has risen to £3,500, showing an increase of about £1,000 over the last year. With the exception of one lull, prior to the General Election, work has come regularly, and at times has been more than we can undertake to produce within the time limits set by some of the firms. This generally results in a good busy workshop atmosphere, to the benefit of all the patients, and we should like to thank all the firms concerned for their co-operation in this.

An average of 30 patients attend the craftwork classes each week, some coming daily, others once or twice weekly, and the articles which are not bought privately are sold at the Helping Hand shop, a total of £66 13s. 4d. having been received for goods sold during this year. A great deal more than this has been sold privately, through friends, families and visitors to the Centre, as well as by the patients themselves.

A further 30 people are visited in their homes, some are taken suitable industrial outwork, others prefer to do craftwork.

The Social Club

This year, the department has benefited by the voluntary assistance given by Mrs. Martin, who has not only helped regularly with the craftwork classes, but has also taken on the chairmanship of the Social Club. The committee still consists of patients, but under Mrs. Martin's guidance, a social has been run each month with such varied activities as a film show, entertainment by groups of singers, outings during the summer, and with the money raised from the raffle each month a coach trip is now anticipated. In spite of Mrs. Eldridge's illness, she continued to help, but after the Christmas party, felt that she would no longer be able to do this. The club presented her with a gift, a token of their appreciation. Mrs. Martin and Mrs. King from the "Inner Wheel" have now taken over the catering and we should like to thank them and all the members of the "Inner Wheel" and "Rotary" who help at the social and with transport.

Transport

Special vehicles are needed to move handicapped persons and prevent them become homebound. Our ambulances with hydraulic lifting gear are used continuously to bring people to work, to attend occupational therapy classes and social activities. We are also indebted to the many voluntary workers who continue to drive for us.

Car Badges for Disabled Drivers

Many disabled people can manage to drive themselves about. Most of them are eligible to participate in the scheme drawn up by the Ministry of Health and administered through local authorities. So far, 48 windscreen discs have been issued.

Picture Loan Scheme

This continues under the guidance of another voluntary worker, Mrs. Finlay. We are indebted to Miss Power-Steel and Mrs. Jewell, who until this year visited this small group of homebound people and brought pictures on loan to them.

We very much appreciate the continued co-operation we receive from the many other statutory and voluntary bodies who work to relieve the problems of disabled people.

SECTION 31—CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

(a) Meals on Wheels

The following table shows the number of Meals on Wheels supplied during the year by the W.V.S. Once again, our thanks are due to Mrs. Buckingham and her helpers for the excellent work they are doing in respect of this service.

January	.	.	.	1,430
February	.	.	.	1,197
March	.	.	.	1,394
April	.	.	.	1,469
May	.	.	.	1,367
June	.	.	.	1,342
July	.	.	.	1,525
August	.	.	.	1,268
September	.	.	.	1,400
October	.	.	.	1,390
November	.	.	.	1,281
December	.	.	.	1,704
				<hr/>
				16,767
				<hr/>

(b) Chiropody Service

Ambulant Patients. The responsibility for the Chiropody Clinic for ambulant patients continued to be performed very successfully by the Queen Victoria Institute Fund. The Clerk of the Trustees informs me that there has been a large increase in this service. There are now 800 patients on the books and during the year a total of 4,104 treatments were given. This includes treatments to 259 new people.

Home-bound Patients. These patients are treated by two qualified chiropodists employed directly by the Council on a part-time basis.

During 1964, 1,171 domiciliary visits were made, 371 patients being treated, of whom 186 were new cases. This is one of the silent services of the Corporation which continued to operate very smoothly throughout the year to the benefit of the people who were attended.

SECTION 37—REGISTRATION OF HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE

Nine Homes in Reading were registered as providing accommodation suitable for caring for aged and infirm people. These are as follows:—

107 Connaught Road	. . .	4 places
8 Southcote Road	. . .	18 places
106 Wokingham Road	. . .	7 places
51 Tilehurst Road	. . .	23 places
Springfield St. Luke	. . .	27 places
272 Wokingham Road	. . .	2 places
4 College Road	. . .	14 places
31 Alexandra Road	. . .	6 places
19 Bath Road	. . .	20 places

SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

No action has been taken during the year under this Section of the Act. In three cases this course of action was considered. In two cases they were persuaded to enter hospital voluntarily and in the other case there was not sufficient grounds to warrant seeking powers from the Magistrate. This case subsequently rapidly deteriorated and was admitted to hospital as a medical emergency.

SECTION 48—DUTY OF COUNCILS TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR PROPERTY OF PERSONS ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS, ETC.

A great deal of property and personal belongings are being protected under this Section of the Act. Regular supervision is necessary to maintain the properties, etc., in good order.

SECTION 50—BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

Two cremations (both female) and four burials (one female and three males) were arranged during 1964. A considerable proportion of the cost has been recovered by way of Death Grants, insurance, etc., and assistance has been given in many cases to relatives who have been unable to undertake responsibility for the necessary arrangements.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Cremation

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Reading Crematorium. The following table shows the number of cremations over the last eighteen years:—

1964	.	.	.	.	1,637
1963	.	.	.	.	2,064
1962	.	.	.	.	1,878
1961	.	.	.	.	1,720
1960	.	.	.	.	1,537
1959	.	.	.	.	1,485
1958	.	.	.	.	1,382
1957	.	.	.	.	1,270
1956	.	.	.	.	1,210
1955	.	.	.	.	992
1954	.	.	.	.	869
1953	.	.	.	.	891
1952	.	.	.	.	675
1951	.	.	.	.	763
1950	.	.	.	.	567
1949	.	.	.	.	524
1948	.	.	.	.	444
1947	.	.	.	.	407

Six hundred and eighty-six (41.9%) of those cremated were borough residents and nine hundred and fifty-one (58.1%) came from outside the Borough.

Nursing Homes

At the end of the year there was only one Nursing Home in the Borough:—

Dunedin (acute surgical cases)	20 beds
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Nursery and Child Minders Act, 1948

At the end of the year there were five child minders, including one day nursery registered in the town in respect of children.

International Certificates

During the year 1,420 International Certificates of Vaccination were authenticated.

